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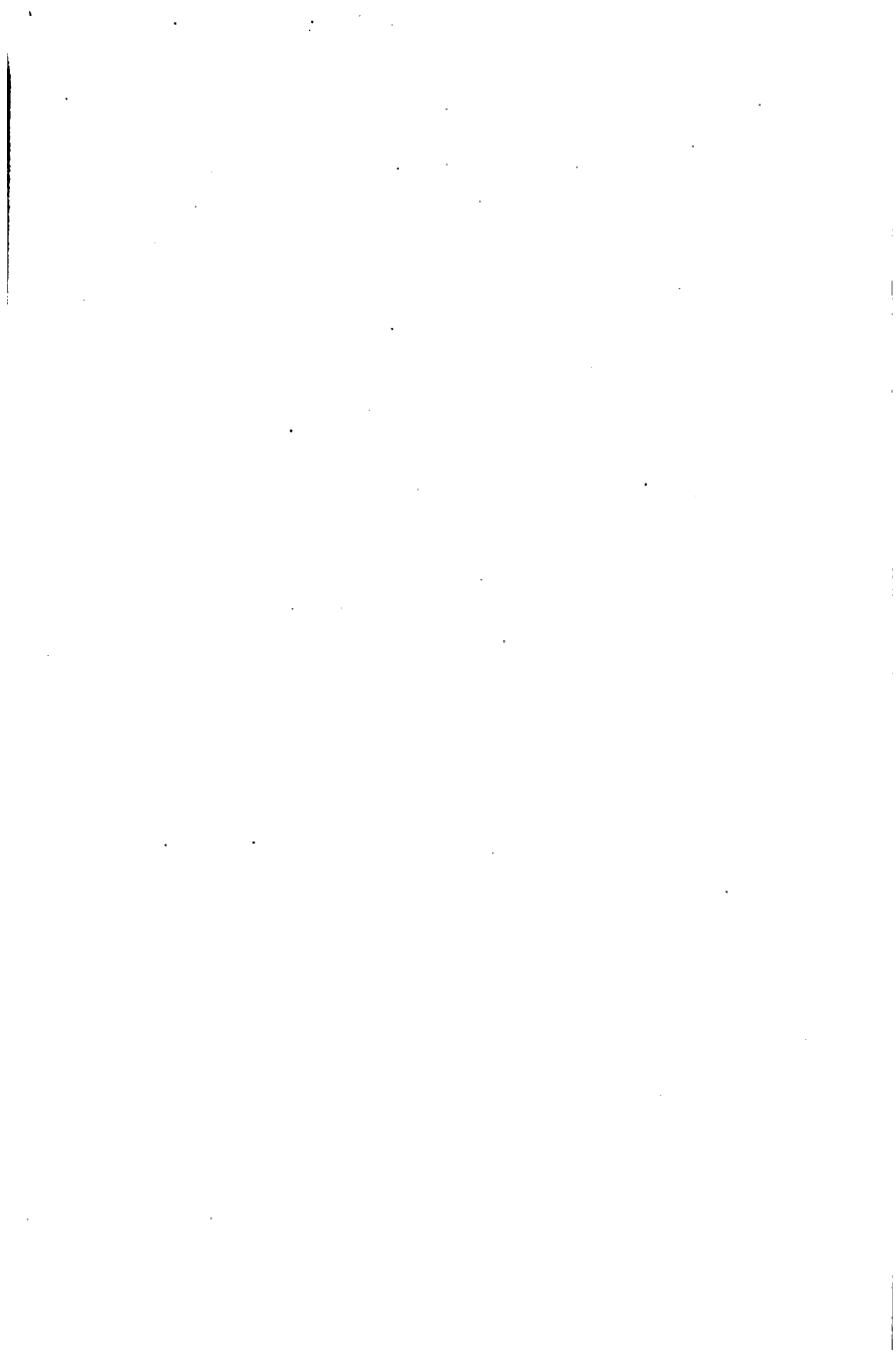
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**MANCHESTER STREETS AND
MANCHESTER MEN**





GARRATT HALL.

MANCHESTER STREETS AND MANCHESTER MEN

SECOND SERIES

BY T. SWINDELLS

WITH TEN ILLUSTRATIONS

1907
J. E. CORNISH, LTD.,
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PREFACE

THE present volume is a continuance of the articles on Manchester Streets that appeared in the columns of the *Manchester Evening News*. They embody the history of some of the best known streets in the city, and a perusal of them will enable the reader to realize the tremendous changes that have marked the city's progress during the last century and a half. The series of volumes, of which this is the second, aims at placing on record the story of those changes, in order that not only may the citizens of the present generation have in a convenient form such a record, but that it may be of use to members of succeeding generations who may wish to know somewhat of the marvellous evolution that marked the city's history during the latter half of the eighteenth and the whole of the nineteenth century.

In the matter of illustrations I am again indebted to my friends Messrs. G. H. Rowbotham and W. Ellis. The wonderful drawing of the south side of Marketstead Lane, now reproduced for the first time, is a monument of patience, care and artistic skill. It enables us to see at a glance what one side of the thoroughfare looked like to our grandfathers. Its interest and value are indisputable, and it is satisfactory to know that the

original drawing is in the possession of the City Corporation.

Another of the illustrations worthy of special note is the view of the Oldham Street Wesleyan Chapel. The print, of which this is a copy, is exceedingly rare, and it should be of interest to many Wesleyans in the district. The oil lamp at the front left-hand corner reminds us that the day of gas lamps was not yet come. In view of the interest aroused by the approaching removal of the Infirmary I thought that a reproduction of the drawing that accompanied the account of Sir William Fairbairn's proposed scheme for dealing with the Piccadilly area, published seventy years ago, would be in keeping with the ideas with which these volumes have been prepared. As showing how great has been the increase in land values, I may point out that Sir William Fairbairn estimated that the cost of purchasing the buildings bounded by Piccadilly, Tip Street, Back Piccadilly and Port Street, together with compensation to dispossessed tenants, would be £150,000. The remaining illustrations explain themselves. Before concluding I may say that the third volume will be published in November, and in addition to completing the series of articles reprinted from the *Manchester Evening News* will include chapters written on the same lines and dealing with Cannon Street and the Market Place.

T. SWINDELLS.

MONTON GREEN,

ECCLES,

April, 1907.

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THE ANCIENT NAME OF PORTLAND STREET.

A PLEASANT COUNTRY LANE.

Long before Manchester became a populous town, and whilst yet the population clustered round about the Old Church and the Market Place, the thoroughfare known to us as Portland Street existed. In those days it was a portion of a winding country lane fringed on either side with fields, which were divided from the lane by hedges, in which grew the dogrose and many another wild flower. Garratt Lane was a favourite walk for the residents of the little community, and we have heard of lovers strolling under the shade of overhanging oak trees and listening to the songs of birds, meanwhile inhaling the country air fragrant with the scent of new-mown hay and honeysuckle. Even little more than a century ago, as De Quincey tells us, before the new Oxford Road was made, persons walking or riding from the town to the village of Rusholme or the country beyond, went by way of Garratt. Garratt Lane extended from what is now known as Piccadilly, then usually described as being near the "daub holes," along the line of Portland Street as far as the present Princess Street, where it turned sharply to the left. Near to Shooter's Brook it passed the old

black and white hall from which it derived its name. Past the hall it bore somewhat to the right, and near to Clifford Street it turned slightly to the left. When the new Oxford Road was made it formed a direct communication between this portion of the old lane and Deansgate. This will serve to give some idea of the appearance of our street long before the days of warehouses and electric trams.

GARRATT HALL.

As I have stated that the former name was Garratt Lane it will be of interest to say something about the building from which the name originated. Garratt Hall was a picturesque black and white mansion whose numerous gables and tall chimneys gave it a delightful appearance, contrasting very much with the buildings now to be found thereabouts. A small but interesting portion of the old hall still remains. It was, in the fourteenth century, the seat of a branch of the Trafford family, and in the reign of Henry VII was occupied by George Trafford and his wife Margaret. These were evidently benefactors in some way to the Manchester Grammar School, for in the statutes appended to the foundation charter is found the direction that the scholars should daily say the Litany together with the responses and supplications following "for the sawles of George Traford of the Garret and Margaret his wif, them and them next imydiately insuying, when and what tyme it shall please God Almighty, of his mcy and gce, to call for the said George and Margaret, or author of them." Truly a quaint, if somewhat

incorrectly spelled, instruction for the offering of prayers after the death of either person. The line of the Traffords of Garratt was broken by the death of Ralph which took place about 1555. The court leet in 1559 declared a number of persons to be his heirs. One of these was Gilbert Gerard who appears to have succeeded to the Garratt estate. In 1596 it was sold by Thomas Gerard to Oswald Mosley who died in 1622. His son, Samuel, sold it to Ralph Hough in 1631.

THE ROMANCE OF GARRATT HALL.

In *Household Words* for June 7, 1851, there is narrated a curious story concerning the mysterious disappearance in the first half of the eighteenth century of the then owner of Garratt Hall. The owner married when very young, and lived for some years in quiet contentment at Garratt. A journey to London, was in those days, a serious undertaking, and having been called thither by business, he wrote home immediately upon his arrival in the city. After writing this letter he appears to have been lost. He never again wrote home, and his wife (or widow) in ignorance of his fate devoted herself to the education and training of her children. Years passed over, and at length the eldest son came of age, and it became necessary to obtain possession of certain deeds and other family documents of which all trace had been lost. A carefully worded advertisement was inserted in certain London newspapers, but for a long time no response was received. At length a mysterious answer came to hand, and in accordance with the conditions laid down in it, the heir proceeded

to London. At a certain house in Barbican he was told that he must submit to being blindfolded before proceeding further. This being done, he was placed in a sedan chair, carried some distance, and after many turnings was put down. When the bandage was removed he found himself in a decently furnished sitting-room, and face to face with a middle-aged man who required him to take an oath of secrecy. The stranger then confessed himself as being the missing husband and father. He told the story how, passing as a bachelor, he fell in love with a daughter of the person in whose house he lodged. In a very short time he proposed marriage, and, abandoning all idea of returning to his rightful wife and estates, ultimately became the son-in-law and junior partner of a London shopkeeper. He handed over the documents, inquired as to his former wife, expressed approval of her training of the children, and promised that when he died a message should be sent to Garratt. With this the son's eyes were again bandaged, and in course of time he found himself back in Barbican. Many years afterwards the promised message was received, and the son legally succeeded to the estates so abandoned in this remarkable manner by his father. Such is the romance of the old hall at Garratt.

The Court Leet records contain several references to the old lane. The archery butts were situated there but in spite of the persistent action of the court, the practice of artillery, as it was formerly called, fell gradually into disuse. Another entry in the records, under date 1681, gives us another side glance on the



GARRATT HALL,
From Painting by PHILLIPS about 1820.

3

customs of the period. It appears that one James Cheetham, in building a cottage, had encroached in some way upon the town's privileges. He was ordered to remove the obstruction in the course of the next two months, and if he failed to do so the burgesses should be at liberty to pull down the cottage if they thought fit. They seem to have had a curious way of doing things in those days, and one wonders what would be the state of affairs to-day if our City Council acted upon the same lines. One section of the community—the hooligans—might certainly have a good time.

THE DECAY OF THE HALL.

A century ago the period of decadence had set in and the hall was divided into a number of tenements, and a few years later the announcement "Garratt Hall Academy" intimated that the members of the rising generation might be instructed in the mysteries of the three R's. The fields were being gradually covered with buildings, the gardens had disappeared, as also had the fishponds which at one time had formed an attractive feature of the grounds. The latter were for some time remembered in the street name of Fishpond Street, which was afterwards changed to Leamington Place, but when the alterations consequent upon the making of Whitworth Street were carried out, all trace of the street disappeared. A century ago the cottages in Fishpond Street were very pleasantly situated. Facing towards the town, long gardens extended in front of them, whilst from the back window the outlook was over the fields that fringed both sides of the brook ;

and a little distance away was the hall, still retaining much of its picturesqueness. The cottages were four in number, and close by the end one was the pump from which the cottagers obtained their water. In summer time the gardens were gay with many of the flowers so popular with our grandfathers. As a child my grandmother lived there, and she often told me in later years how many of the residents of Ancoats would find their way there by the footpath that ran along the bank of the brook, and would purchase salads and bunches of flowers on fine Sunday mornings; and this was confirmed by James Lamb, the furnisher, who said that he had often visited the gardens, when living in Bridge Street, Deansgate. It requires a stretch of the imagination to realize that this state of things existed so near to the Technical School only a century ago. On the opposite side of Garratt Lane, near to the hall, a row of cottages was built which was known as Salt Pie Row. About 1815 Hunt Street was laid out. The canal was opened in 1804, and very soon afterwards the Union Corn Mill was built on its banks. The name of Garratt Lane had been replaced by Portland Street, David Street, and Brook Street, although only few buildings had been erected in the two latter named streets. During the next twenty years the changes were many, and in 1840 little front land remained unbuilt upon, although between David Street and London Road the Granby Row fields were frequently used by the Chartists for the purpose of holding political meetings.

PORTLAND PLACE, PORTLAND STREET.

A PICCADILLY GARDEN.

The street name of Portland Place is now well-nigh forgotten, and many Manchester men requested by a stranger on Piccadilly for information respecting its whereabouts would be unable to supply it. For many years it was the name given to the buildings extending from Piccadilly to the corner of Aytoun Street, Portland Street commencing from the opposite corner of the latter street. For about a century and a quarter it has continued to supply items of information illustrating the growth of the city. We hear of it first in a private note written by the late Walter Aston, and also in some reminiscences by Gertrude Aston. To summarize the facts we are told that William Aston, gunmaker, removed from Wednesbury to Manchester, and was in 1776 or thereabouts the tenant of a house and shop in Market Street Lane. They occupied the site of the present shops of Messrs. Holmes and Darbyshire, and connected with the house was a garden which stretched away to Cannon Street. The erection of warehouses in the neighbourhood had already commenced, and the value of land was increasing. Therefore it was that the owner of Aston's shop desiring to take advantage of the boom in prices, decided to sell, and offered the land and

buildings to his tenant. Aston thought that the price asked was unreasonably high, and consequently was compelled to surrender his garden. To those acquainted with the land values of to-day, the price asked for the land extending from Market Street Lane to Cannon Street will appear to be unreasonably low, for it was only £800. When the gunmaker lost his gardens he cast about for a piece of field land that could be converted into a garden. He secured such a plot, and in the lengthening mornings and evenings of spring and early summer William Aston was busy on the site now covered by the Queen's Hotel. We are not told how long the garden was kept by Aston, but we know that a few years later a bowling green was laid out on a portion of the land overlooking the "daub holes."

SOME RESIDENTS.

About a century ago the bowling green disappeared, and on its site a row of fine houses were built. They are represented to-day by the hotel, and in their day were tenanted by some of the best known of Manchester citizens. Several of these helped in the making of our history and should be mentioned accordingly.

THOMAS HOULDSWORTH.

One of the earliest tenants of the houses at Portland Place was Thomas Houldsworth, whose spinning mill in Little Lever Street still stands, although a portion was seriously damaged by a recent fire. Mr. Houldsworth was exceedingly popular as an employer, and

his popularity was enhanced by the success that often attended his horses at the Kersal Moor races ; and at a later period at the meetings organized by the Earl of Wilton at Heaten Park. When his well-known colours of green and gold, worn by Sam Darling mounted on Vanish or Filho da Puta, were carried triumphantly past the winning post, the enthusiasm of the assembled thousands was intense. A true sportsman, he always ran to win, and trainers and jockeys alike were encouraged to do the best they knew. Not content with business and sport, he also turned his attention to politics, and from 1818 to 1852 he represented in succession in the House of Commons Pontefract, Newton and North Nottinghamshire. His principal country seat was Sherwood Hall, Notts ; but he died at Portland Place on September 1, 1852, at the age of eighty. Sir William Houldsworth is nephew to Thomas Houldsworth, who died a bachelor.

ROBERT TURNER.

A neighbour of Mr. Houldsworth's, who also kept a stud of racehorses, was Robert Turner, calico printer, whose warehouse was in High Street. He lived at the corner house, numbered 2, Piccadilly. The most interesting incident in his life was his connection with a case of abduction and runaway marriage. His brother William, who lived at Pott Shrigley, had a daughter Ellen, who was being educated at a school at Liverpool. She appears to have made the acquaintance of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, who, along with his

brother William, his sister Frances, and Edward Thevant, devised a plot to remove her from school and to marry her. By means of a forged letter, ostensibly sent by her stepmother, he obtained possession of her on March 7, 1826, and brought her to Manchester. From thence she was taken to Gretna Green, where a form of marriage was gone through. London was next visited, after which they went to Calais. In the meantime her family had taken steps for the lady's release, which was achieved in the French town by her uncle Robert Turner. The Wakefields were arrested, and at the Lancaster Assizes Edward was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Newgate, and his brother to three years in Lancaster Castle. The marriage was dissolved by Act of Parliament, no cohabitation having taken place; and Miss Turner afterwards married Mr. Legh, of Lyme.

WILLIAM ROBERT WHATTON, F.R.S., F.S.A.

Mr. Whatton was born at Loughborough in 1790, and having qualified, commenced practice in Manchester in 1815. He was appointed a surgeon to the Infirmary, and died in 1835. It is rather as a literary man that Mr. Whatton is remembered to-day, his name appearing in conjunction with that of Samuel Hibbert Ware on the title page of the *Foundations of Manchester*, of which he wrote the third volume. At one time he had intended publishing a work on the *Worthies of Lancashire*, but abandoned it, handing over to Mr. Baines the biographical sketches he had written, who incorporated them

in his *Lancashire*. At the time of his death he was the librarian of the Literary and Philosophical Society.

In the same house there lived for a time Henry Norris, who married a daughter of John Allen, of Mayfield, Moss Side, and who, on the failure of William Allen, the banker, purchased the hall and estate of Davyhulme. William Allen built the house in Quay Street, which after a series of changes now serves the purpose of the County Court. He lived in magnificent style until the crash came that overwhelmed him. His sister having married Henry Norris, the estate of Davyhulme passed by purchase to him, and in later years his descendants altered the spelling of the name to Norreys.

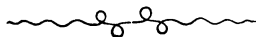
A NOTED THEATRICAL FAMILY.

Mr. Gavin Hamilton, another member of the Infirmary staff, died at Portland Place on August 25, 1829. His wife, Miss Ward, was not only a gifted actress herself, but was the daughter of one of Manchester's earliest actors. Her father, Thomas Achurch Ward, so far back as 1767, took a benefit at the Marsden Street Theatre, and in 1782 he and his wife (Miss Hoare) commenced an engagement at Drury Lane Theatre, where they often played along with Mrs. Siddons and Miss Farren (afterwards Countess of Derby). When the Spring Gardens house was rebuilt Mr. Ward took the joint management along with Mr. Banks; and in later years he became manager of the Fountain Street theatre. In 1811 he made his last appearance on the stage, but Mrs. Ward kept possession of the boards

until 1816. In 1825 Mr. Ward severed his connection with the stage, after a career that had comprised forty years as an actor and thirty as a manager, and retired into private life. He died at his residence, Chatham Street, Piccadilly, on December 1, 1835, aged eighty-six. His only daughter after a short and successful stage life married Mr. Gavin Hamilton, who at the time was a popular surgeon with a rapidly growing practice.

ROBERT BARBOUR.

In Manchester commercial circles few names commanded more widespread respect for many years than did that of Robert Barbour. A native of Renfrewshire, he was another of the Scotchmen who came to Manchester in the early part of the last century. He amassed a large fortune, and was a generous supporter of many local charities. As a Scotch Presbyterian he was one of the founders of the Scotch Church in St. Peter's Square, and on one occasion he gave £12,000 for the foundation of a professorship in the Presbyterian College in London. His only daughter, Janetta, was born at Portland Place, and became the wife of Sir Windham C. J. C. Anstruther. Mr. Barbour died at Bolesworth Castle on January 17, 1885, in his eighty-eighth year. About fifty years ago the houses were converted into the present hotel, but the iron gates that led to the doors of several of the houses are still to be seen.



PORTLAND STREET.

PART I.

MANCHESTER'S FIRST FEVER HOSPITAL.

In the spring of 1796 a movement was commenced which proved in its results to be one of the most beneficent ever organized in the city. The crowded and insanitary conditions under which the working classes lived even then made it increasingly difficult to cope with outbreaks of disease. Fever was ever present in the squalid dens to be found in the neighbourhood of Portland Street, and in order to overcome the evil several cottages in that street were purchased and fitted up for the reception of fever patients. The experiment proved so successful that an extension was soon decided upon. A subscription list was opened, by which over £5,000 was raised, and a large brick building was erected in Aytoun Street. Twenty-one wards, containing accommodation for a hundred patients, were provided, scarlet fever patients being isolated from the other occupants of the building. The building was opened in 1804. The officers at the time were:—President, Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P. (the first baronet); vice-president, Thomas Drinkwater; treasurer, Nathaniel Gould; house visitor, Richard Meadowcroft; with

John Drinkwater (brother of the author of the "History of the Siege of Gibraltar") and Dauntsey Hulme (who contributed £20,000 to the Infirmary funds) as auditors. For more than half a century the House of Recovery was conducted as an independent institution; but in 1856 it was amalgamated with the Infirmary, and was removed to a portion of the southern wing of that building. In later years, thanks to the liberality of Robert Barnes, the new hospital at Monsall was built. After the removal in 1856 the Aytoun Street site was covered with warehouse buildings, the last occupants as such being Alexander Collie and Co., whose failure in 1875 for £3,000,000 created a painful sensation in the city.

AN OLD CARRYING CONCERN.

Before the advent of the railway system carriage of goods was of necessity confined to carriers' waggons and canal boats. Many of the former progressed along the roads in a leisurely fashion, although occasionally we find reference to a "fly waggon," which appears to have moved along at a quicker pace. Thus a waggon left the *Star* yard three days per week, which was timed to do the journey to Bristol in sixty hours, Johnson's Liverpool waggon did the journey thither in fourteen hours, whilst some of "Pickford's Caravans," as they were termed, travelled to London in thirty-six hours. These were, however, exceptional cases. As a rule the carriers' waggons travelled slowly. One of Manchester's early carriers was Thomas Carver, who

commenced business in Halifax with one cart in 1800 and shortly afterwards he began sending a waggon to Manchester once a week. In 1815 his warehouse was in Dale Street, but he afterwards removed to a warehouse and stables that stood at the corner of Portland Place and Aytoun Street. The style of the firm was at first Carver, Hartley, and Co., but was changed afterwards to Carver, Scott, and Co. Gradually the business increased, and in 1824 daily waggons left Portland Place for Halifax, Bradford, Hull, Leeds, York, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Scotland. Mr. Carver came to reside in Manchester, building a warehouse at the corner of Portland Street and David Street, with a house attached, and entered from David Street. His son William afterwards lived there until 1844, when he removed to Old Trafford. Many of the carrying concerns were killed by the development of the railway system, but the firm of Carver still remains, although their business must be in remarkable contrast to that of a century ago.

PORTLAND STREET IN THE THIRTIES.

When Queen Victoria ascended the throne Portland Street gave little promise of becoming the centre of Manchester's warehouse area. To the visitor it was nothing more than a third-rate thoroughfare devoted to mean and poor-looking shops. The houses in Portland Place were tenanted by Robert Barbour, Thomas Houldsworth, Richard Ormerod (whose machine shop was in Minshull Street, and whose business was afterwards altered in name to Ormerod, Grierson, and Co.),

and John Ashton. Immediately adjacent were the livery stables conducted by Mrs. Hoyle on the site afterwards covered by Peake's warehouse. At the opposite corner of Aytoun Street was Barbour's warehouse, next door to which was the mill of Louis Schwabe, which was in later years occupied by James Houldsworth, a brother of Sir William Houldsworth, who there carried on business as an embroidery manufacturer. From there to the corner of David Street was a succession of inferior shops; and at the bottom of the street, which then only extended to David Street, stood a weaving shed. On the right-hand side of the street the same state of things existed. The Mosley Arms was then numbered 32, and on one side was a grocer's shop, a butcher being next-door neighbour on the other side. Even as recent as 1855, only seven warehouses stood on the left-hand side of the street, and in 1858 four more were opened. As no account of Portland Street would be complete without notes on some of the more important business concerns associated with it during the last half-century, brief references will be made to several houses who have helped to give the street its world-wide reputation.

A. AND S. HENRY.

One of the first warehouses built in the street was that of Messrs. A. and S. Henry. Alexander Henry, the founder of the firm, was of Irish birth, but spent his early years in Philadelphia, whither he had been sent to an uncle, who was in business there. At the age of twenty-one he left the States, and making his way to

Manchester commenced business in a small building in Palace Street about 1816. He afterwards removed to Spear Street, where he took his younger brother Samuel into partnership, the firm taking the name of A. and S. Henry. In 1838, the warehouse in Portland Street was occupied, but two years later the junior partner died. He was on a business visit to the States, and was a passenger in the American ship *Lexington*, bound from New York to Providence, when it caught fire, nearly the whole of the crew and passengers perishing in the flames. The elder brother did what was in those days regarded as a large amount of travelling, and it is said that he made twenty-five voyages to America in sailing vessels. He was a busy man, but found time to take his part in public work. He sat as Liberal member of Parliament for South Lancashire from December, 1847, to July, 1852; and died soon after his retirement. It is remarkable that one of his sons, John Snowden Henry, sat as Conservative member for South-East Lancashire, whilst another one, Mitchell Henry, contested Manchester as an independent Liberal on two occasions. The first of these was in 1867, when a by-election followed the death of Edward James. Alderman Bennett and Jacob Bright were the official Conservative and Liberal candidates. Jacob Bright polled 8,160 votes and was returned, but Mr. Henry only polled 643. It is on record that a woman in St. Clement's Ward, whose name had by mistake been placed on the register voted, she being the first woman who ever voted at a Parliamentary election. The following year a general election suc-

ceeded the passing of the Reform Bill, and Mr. Henry again came forward as an independent Liberal candidate. With an extended franchise great excitement attended the contest at which Hugh Birley, Sir Thomas Bazley, and Jacob Bright were elected. Mr. Henry polled 5,236. It was during this contest that he made the daring experiment of publishing a newspaper daily to give particulars of his campaign. The reason for this was the great difficulties he encountered in obtaining good reports of his meetings in the columns of existing papers. After the contest he disposed of his venture, which since then has been known as the *Manchester Evening News*.

S. AND. J. WATTS AND CO.

Perhaps no other warehouse has been photographed and sketched so often as has Watts's warehouse. Built in 1858, the people of the day were astonished at the temerity of its owners. Sir James Watts, who was born in 1804, was elected councillor for St. James' Ward in 1848, and was Mayor of the city in 1855-6 and in 1856-7. During the latter year the Queen visited Manchester to open the Art Treasures Exhibition, and on that occasion conferred the honour of knighthood upon Mr. Watts. He died at Abney Hall on April 6, 1878. Two years later his nephew Samuel, who had rendered many valuable services to the cause of Liberalism, died at Burnage Hall in his forty-second year. To-day the name of the firm is associated with many medical and philanthropic charities; and in another department it is familiar, as the name of the illustrator of Fletcher Moss's delightful books.

PORTLAND STREET.

PART II.

SOME BUSINESS CONCERNS.

KERSHAW, SIDEBOTTOM, AND CO.

About fifty years ago, one of the best known Manchester firms, Kershaw, Leese, and Sidebottom, removed from High Street to a new warehouse in Portland Street. Within the half-century that has elapsed since then many great changes have been recorded in the home trade houses that were formerly to be found in the Portland Street area. Some have grown and prospered, others have been absorbed by greater concerns, and some have disappeared altogether. One of the last named was the firm now referred to. The story of its rise and fall is interesting reading. Joseph Leese, a draper in Burton-on-Trent, came to Manchester about 1813 and commenced business with a Mr. Warren as Leese and Warren. The business was only small when Robert Millington introduced additional capital, the firm becoming Leese, Warren, and Co. Among the employés of the firm were James Kershaw, the son of a handloom weaver, and a salesman named W. R. Callender. Mr. Warren left the firm about 1821, and Kershaw and Callender joined it as junior partners.

In 1824 their warehouse was at the corner of High

Street and Cannon Street, but in 1825 they removed to other premises near to Bridgewater Place. Mr. Kershaw devoted a large amount of attention to the print trade, and very soon the firm had the finest print room in the city. Mr. Leese managed the fustian department, and Mr. Callender took charge of the white and grey cloth department. In 1831 the average weekly sales of prints were 25,000 pieces, and the turnover was £1,000,000 a year—a very big thing indeed in those days. As showing how business was conducted in those days it may be noted that hours at the warehouse were from eight to eight; and manufacturers having goods to submit to Mr. Leese were required to have them ready for him at High Street by seven o'clock in the morning. He resided at the Polygon, Ardwick. Competition with other firms became keen, and when Messrs. Wright and Lee charged them with infringing certain of their designs great excitement was caused by the appearance of some anonymous pamphlets. Legal proceedings were instituted, and as a result Mr. Emerson Tennant, M.P., introduced into Parliament a Copyright of Designs Bill.

In 1832 the volume of print trade done by the firm was so great that three print works, the Ardwick Printworks, the Reddish Vale Printworks, and the Mount Sion Printworks, Radcliffe, were fully occupied in meeting the demand. In 1834 the Ardwick and Reddish works were purchased, and placed under the management of Mr. Leese, junr. In 1836 the father having retired from the firm, the son was admitted a partner,

the style becoming Kershaw, Callender, and Leese ; but Mr. Callender retiring soon afterwards, a further change was made, James Sidebottom and Nathan Barr, both old employés, were admitted into partnership, the name being again changed to Kershaw, Leese, Sidebottom and Co. The next important change was the purchase of the Mersey Mills, Stockport, and the erection, at a cost of £120,000 of the India Mill. In 1852 a plot of land in Portland Street was purchased, and a fine warehouse erected, of which the firm took possession in 1854. Other changes followed, in the course of which the warehouse business was kept distinct from the mills at Stockport, which were managed by the Eskrigges, who were partners along with Mr. Leese and Mr. Sidebottom. The Ardwick printworks were given up, but it should be noted that whilst Mr. Leese, junr., managed them the first donkey engine ever used to work a twelve or sixteen-colour printing machine was introduced there on the patent of Mr. Leese, along with James Nasmyth. The next change in the name of the firm was made in 1860, when Mr. Leese retired, although he retained a partnership in the mills, the title becoming Kershaw, Sidebottom, and Berry. In 1876 a company was formed to take over the business referred to, and that of James Brown, Son, and Co., who occupied the adjoining warehouse ; but in 1878 a resolution to voluntarily wind up the concern was passed, and a business that for half a century had occupied a high position in Manchester commerce passed away. A word should be said about several of the one-time partners.

When Joseph Leese, senr., retired from the firm in 1836 he purchased an engineering business at Bury, bought a fustian weaving mill near Bolton and a cotton mill at Ainsworth. He died at Bowdon in 1861. James Kershaw took an active part in public work, was alderman and J.P. for Manchester, being elected Mayor in 1842, twice unsuccessfully contested Warrington, became Liberal M.P. for Stockport in 1847, and died in 1864. When Mr. Callender left the firm he founded the business concern of Callender, Bickham, and Co., Mosley Street. The firm afterwards became Callender and Sons, with a warehouse in Charlotte Street. They purchased the mills of Robert Barnes in Jackson Street, London Road. Liberal in politics, he sat for some years in the City Council, and prior to that had joined the agitation for incorporation. He died in 1872. His son, W. R. Callender, afterwards became Conservative M.P. for Manchester. Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Callender were members of the Council of the Anti-Corn Law League, and their portraits are included in the well-known picture.

EDWARD AND JOHN JACKSON.

Another well-known firm of half a century ago was that of E. and J. Jackson. The house originated with a dissolution of partnership in connection with a still older firm. When the century opened the firm afterwards known as Broadhurst, Marris, Henson, and Broadhurst, carried on business as calico printers at 37, Cannon Street. In 1823 Francis Marris and his son, John Milne

Marris, formed a partnership with Edward and John Jackson, and commenced business as Francis Marris, son, and Jacksons at the same address, removing about ten years later to the building hitherto used as a silk mill that stood at the corner of Mosley Street and York Street. There they remained until 1858, when the site was sold to the Manchester and Salford Bank. The retirement of Francis Marris and the death of his son had in the meantime resulted in the change of the name of the firm to that of E. and J. Jackson. Land was purchased in Portland Place, and a warehouse erected thereon, where business was conducted until March, 1879, when the business was sold to Messrs. Richardson, Tee, Rycroft, and Co. The latter firm originated in Barnsley in 1804, branches in Manchester and London being opened at a later date.

SAM MENDEL.

Another name associated with Portland Street was that of Sam Mendel, whose father, Emmanuel Mendel, carried on business as a rope and twine manufacturer in Market Street. The son entered the service of B. Liebert, Bow Street, for whom he afterwards travelled in Germany and South America. He commenced business off Blackfriars Street, but succeeding to the business of Robert Gardner, a Levant merchant, he built a warehouse in Dickinson Street. He afterwards removed to Booth Street, Portland Street, and finally to his palatial warehouse in Chepstow Street. It is said that he was never known to be guilty of sharp

practice, nor of dishonourable conduct; but after occupying the position of a merchant prince he encountered misfortune, and died in poverty at Balham in 1884. The erection of Manley Hall, and the sale of its contents in 1875 are not yet forgotten by Manchester men.

GEORGE FAULKNER.

Another name that should be mentioned is that of the friend of John Owens. George Faulkner, the son of an Oldham Street resident, was born in 1790, and after receiving a moderate education entered the employment of Robert Appleby, silk, cotton, and linen manufacturer, Bridgewater Yard. In 1812 he was admitted to partnership, the firm being Appleby and Faulkner. In 1829 Mr. Appleby died, and the firm became George Faulkner and Co., and in our day the concern is familiar as Fallows and Keymer. The story of the origin of Owens College has often been told. Faulkner and Owens were school-fellows at a private school at Ardwick Green, and the friendship then formed was only closed by death. On one occasion Owens, who was a bachelor, and had been successful in business, told his friend that in his will he intended leaving the whole of his wealth to him. Faulkner replied that he already possessed as much as he required, and urged that it should be used to found an educational institution free from religious tests, in accordance with views strongly held by Owens. This was done, and as a result of the action of the friends, Manchester's great foundation came into being.

PRINCESS STREET.

PART I.

SOME EARLY RESIDENTS.

On June 24, 1741, Casson and Berry published an interesting map of the town as it then appeared. In those days fields extended beyond Tib Lane, although a few isolated houses had been erected. Where Princess Street joins Cross Street was a narrow country lane leading apparently to the South Hall Fields, which then covered the site of Albert Square. When the thoroughfare was made and from whom it took its name are not definitely known, but we find a reference to it in the Court Leet records of 1772, and also on a map published in the same year. In de Quincey's time, and for many years afterwards, the name was applied only to that portion of the street that extended from the corner of Red Cross Street to Cooper Street. Then it became Bond Street, but at Portland Street it again changed to David Street. A century ago the Cross Street side of the present Albert Square was known as Longworth's Folly. Why we are not told. It was closed at the end near to Queen Street by a large pond. Fields still covered much of the land thereabouts, although Princess Street was fairly

well built up. David Street was bounded on one side by a field hedge, and a portion of the site of the Cooper Street end of the Town Hall was occupied by a pond. Leaving for the present references to the Athenæum and the Mechanics' Institution, we may note the names of a few of the more notable of the residents who formerly resided there. Perhaps the family holding the longest connection were the Armstrongs, wine and spirit merchants, who after a century's tenancy were compelled to remove when the Town Hall was built. For many years they had as a neighbour Samuel Meanley, the son of the Rev. Richard Meanley, who was one of the trustees of the Cross Street Chapel. Another resident was Samuel Taylor, whose eighth son took a prominent part in the Volunteer movement of a century ago, being appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Manchester and Salford Regiment of Volunteers. He was equally active in political affairs, and was for some time Grand Master of the Orangemen of Great Britain. A generation later than the period now referred to the residents included a number of members of the legal profession, no fewer than sixteen names of attorneys figuring in the directory for 1839. The greater number of these died without achieving note or distinction, but two names deserve special notice.

Mr. Thomas Potter commenced practice in Clarence Street, in 1817, but removed soon afterwards to 11, Princess Street, where he remained for over twenty years. He was a leading Wesleyan, and amongst those

who from time to time were articled to him were the sons of several notable Wesleyan ministers. They included Percival Bunting, the son of the Rev. Dr. Bunting; and a grandson of another President of the Wesleyan Conference. The Rev. James Wood had worked with Wesley, and was a very popular preacher. He was President in 1800 and in 1808. His son Robert also joined the ministry, and was several times stationed in Manchester. During one of these periods he articled his son Bateson to Mr. Potter, to whose practice, he, in later years succeeded. Another well-known firm of attorneys was that of Slater and Heelis, who occupied rooms at 49, Princess Street. Early in the century, as Sharpe, Eccles, and Crieie they were in practice in King Street. In 1810 they removed to Cross Street, and twelve years later the senior partner retired, Mr. Slater being admitted to partnership at the same time. At the time Mr. Stephen Heelis was an employé of the firm, subsequently becoming a partner. Mr. Heelis was in many ways a notable character. Becoming a member of the Salford Corporation he occupied the position of Mayor for two years. Being Mayor on the occasion of the Royal visit in 1857 he was offered the honour of knighthood but declined it. As a founder of the Law Association he occupied the presidential chair in 1843 and in 1867, and gave his professional services to many charitable institutions in the city and borough. When the Salford Volunteer Corps was formed Mr. Heelis was a liberal contributor to its funds; and as a Conservative he rendered many valuable ser-

vices to his party. He died at Grasmere on August 26, 1871, in his seventieth year. When Lightly Simpson commenced business as a chemist at 22, Princess Street, about seventy years ago, it was generally thought that it was a rash undertaking, there being so little property in the neighbourhood. It, however, proved to be a fortunate speculation, and many years ago Mr. Simpson retired, disposing of the business to Ransome and Co.

A MANCHESTER ARTIST.

For some years Charles Calvert, artist, had a studio, and lived at 21, Princess Street. His grandfather had been steward to the Duke of Norfolk, and when he came to live in Manchester, being of delicate health, he built himself a house in Oldham Street, then partly bounded by fields. Charles Calvert's brother Randolph was a sculptor of considerable promise. He, however, died young, and was attended in his last illness by Wordsworth, the poet, to whom he left a legacy which enabled the poet and his sister to live until Lord Lonsdale paid the claim which Wordsworth's father had made against the Lonsdale estates. Charles Calvert's daughter married William Bradley, specimens of whose work are amongst the valued possessions of the Manchester Corporation. William Bradley was born in Bloom Street, Manchester, on January 16, 1801. His father was a partner in the firm of Bradley and Thackrey, who occupied the Old Garratt Mill. At one time he resided at Garratt Hall, where he had a beautiful garden, in which he grew grapes and melons. He died suddenly

when the future painter was only three years of age. After receiving what was in those days regarded as a good education, William Bradley became office boy for Messrs. White, Armitage, and Co., New Brown Street, at a wage of three shillings per week. As a boy he showed considerable artistic talent, and at the early age of sixteen began the practice of art, styling himself "miniature and animal painter." In 1819 he lived at 43, Major Street, where his prices ranged from one shilling to six guineas. In 1822 he migrated to London, where he took lodgings in Hatton Garden, removing afterwards to Gerrard Street. He succeeded in securing the friendship and professional aid of Sir Thomas Lawrence, and in 1829 he took the house, 54, Upper Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, where he remained for nine years. He then returned to Manchester, living at Longsight Terrace, with a studio at Agnew's. He soon afterwards removed his studio to a room in the house in Princess Street occupied by his father-in-law, Calvert. To the close of his life he resided in the city, and died in one of a suite of rooms he occupied in Newall's Buildings, Market Street, on July 4, 1857, being buried in St. John's Churchyard. A fellow-artist said of him : "As a portrait painter Bradley understood thoroughly all that pertained to likeness ; in middle life his style was bold and vigorous ; later on he verged into a smooth or Carlo Dolci manner, though at all times he drew well and was a good colourist." Amongst the productions of Bradley's brush are the portraits of Alderman Sir Thomas Potter, first Mayor of the city ;

Alderman James Kershaw, M.P., Mayor in 1842-3, and Joseph Brotherton, M.P., now hanging in the Town Hall; portraits of W. C. Macready and Charles Swain in the Reference Library; portrait of Peter Clare in the Literary and Philosophical Rooms in George Street; portraits of John Isherwood, the Lancashire singer; Henry Liverseege, the artist, and Charles Swain, in the Peel Park collection; and a portrait of Sir Benjamin Heywood, Bart., M.P., that formerly hung in the Mechanics' Institution. Included in his list of productions were portraits of Lord Sandon, Lord Francis Egerton (first Earl of Ellesmere), Sir John Gladstone, W. E. Gladstone, Sheridan Knowles, John Brooks, Samuel Brooks, R. R. Haydon, the artist, the Rev. Hugh Stowell, and Thomas Ashton, of Hyde. He also painted a number of studies of female heads and a few landscapes, and an exhibition of his pictures would be full of interest.

AN OLD TIME OCCUPATION.

A resident in Bond Street named Parry carried on the occupation of a cupper. Seventy years ago blood-letting was resorted to on every available occasion. If a person fainted from exhaustion he was bled, if a fever attacked him he was bled, and if inflammation made its appearance the same remedy was applied. When Madame Malibran was taken ill at the Manchester Musical Festival, Dr. Bardsley bled her in the arm, and most ailments were supposed to succumb to the treatment. The custom died a hard death, for I remember

seeing the announcement in certain cottage windows in Ancoats, "bleeding with leeches," and I also remember feeling a dozen of the creatures crawling over a portion of my anatomy and afterwards taking their fill.



PRINCESS STREET.

THE ATHENÆUM.

ITS INCEPTION.

Few institutions have deserved better support from Manchester men than has the Manchester Athenæum, and few movements have been so uniformly successful. Seventy years ago there was little provision made for the improvement and entertainment of the young men resident in the town. The idea of forming an institution to meet the case was first formed by Mr. John Walker, a surgeon, who resided at 25, Princess Street, and who twelve years later died from fever contracted during an assiduous performance of his professional duties amongst the dwellers in the slums. At his suggestion the proposal was discussed by four or five young men of his acquaintance, one of whom was Richard Cobden, then an unknown but an enthusiastic worker. Following this a meeting was held in Hayward's Hotel, Bridge Street, on October 13, 1835, at which public support to the new movement was readily accorded. It is stated that it was upon this occasion that Cobden made his first speech in public. A board of directors was formed, which included many of Manchester's best men James Heywood, F.R.S., son of

Nathaniel Heywood, the banker, was elected first president; Hugh Hornby Birley, cotton spinner; Edward Lloyd; Thomas Potter, afterwards Mayor of Manchester; and G. W. Wood, afterwards M.P. for South Lancashire, were elected vice-presidents; William Langton, the banker, was first treasurer; Edward Worthington, attorney, was honorary secretary; J. S. Grafton, calico printer, was chairman of the board; and Henry Romilly, merchant, was vice-chairman. The board also included, amongst others, Joseph Adshhead, Manchester's "Man of Ross"; W. Romaine Callender, father of the future M.P.; Matthew Curtis, afterwards Mayor of the city; S. D. Darbyshire, the well-known solicitor; Richard Cobden, G. F. Mandley, the friend of William Cobbett; Robert Owen, and other social reformers; William Neild, second Mayor of Manchester; Dr. Noble, the eminent physician; and William Sale, attorney. So organized, the movement prospered so much that three years later steps were taken to build a permanent home that should take the place of the rooms placed at the disposal of the directors in the Royal Institution building. A subscription list was opened, and in three weeks £10,000 was raised, and on October 23, 1839 the building was opened by a banquet. The chair was taken by H. H. Birley and supporting him were the first Mayor and the boroughreeve of the town, Dr. Dalton, Peter Clare, Richard Cobden, Charles Handley, M.P., Daniel Lee, George Hadfield, Joseph Heron, Robert Philips, in addition to the directors. Charles Dickens had been invited to attend, but

the illness of his wife prevented him from doing so. The principal speakers were Alderman Cobden, who responded to the toast of Prosperity to the Manchester Athenæum: Peter Clare, who responded on behalf of Dr. Dalton to the toast of his health, coupled with the "Lit. and Phil.," and Absalom Walkin, who proposed "Our Sister Institutions, the Mechanics' Institutions of Manchester and Salford, the Lyceum and Parthenon of Manchester, Salford, and Chorlton-upon-Medlock."

THE SOIREES.

For a series of years the annual soirees were regarded as most important functions, and many eminent men were invited to take part in them. At the first one, held in 1843, Charles Dickens presided; and a year later Benjamin Disraeli, whose novel *Coningsby* had just been issued, occupied the position. As showing how general was the support accorded by men of all parties and shades of thought, it may be noted that Mr. Disraeli was supported by Richard Cobden, Lord John Manners, Milner Gibson, Rowland Hall, and J. R. McCulloch. Serjeant Sir T. N. Talfourd, Charles Lamb's first biographer, took the chair in 1845; Lord Morpeth, afterwards Lord Carlisle, described by Justin McCarthy as a literary and artistic young nobleman who cultivated politics as an intellectual amusement, was chairman in 1846; Sir Archibald Alison, the historian, in 1847; and Viscount Mahon in 1848. Not only were leading men invited to take the chair on these occasions, but equally eminent individuals were invited to support

them. In addition to the names already given, those of John Bright, Douglas Jerrold, of *Punch* fame ; Samuel Lover, the Irish poet and novelist ; Sir Edward Watkin ; Ralph Waldo Emerson, Archbishop Whately, and William Chambers appear in the reports of these gatherings, which were held in the Free Trade Hall. The later forties were marked, however, as a period of disaster, and for a time it appeared as though the days of the Athenæum were numbered.

A PERIOD OF DISASTER.

Various facts operated to cause the three years 1846-9 to be fraught with disaster to the institution, and when Samuel Ogden took the position of honorary secretary in 1849 it almost appeared as though the end was near. In view of the prosperity that has attended it during the past half-century, it will be of interest to quote the opinions of a Manchester man who in the forties published a pamphlet on "Manchester and the Manchester People." He says : "Then next to it stands the Manchester Athenæum, a melancholy memento of Manchester pride and folly. The top rooms of this great repository of manufacturing genius is let to the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, and the cellar floor to an eating-house keeper, who, having fitted up his establishment in a very handsome manner, has excited the jealousy of the miserable spreaders of knowledge, who have forbidden him to keep London newspapers, in case such might lead their members from their wretched-

looking room. The middle room of the building is now alone reserved for the rising genius of the town, and will, no doubt, ere long meet with a similar catastrophe, unless a different spirit actuates the ruling gentlemen of this temple of learning. So much for the pride that prompted the building and the meanness that prevents the town making it public property. What a difference exists now from that memorable evening when its roof rung with acclamations to the toast of 'Prosperity to the Manchester Athenæum.' Cotton spinners looked big, colonels waxed eloquent, and aldermen talked nonsense for the amusement of the intellectual audience there and then assembled. In this place, dedicated to knowledge, the youthful and middle-aged genius of Manchester love to dwell. On important and eventful junctures there will be heard members of that Athenian temple pouring out a flood of eloquence that would, and is intended to, eclipse a Cicero, a Demosthenes, or a Sheridan. Then will be heard the sublimity of Burke, the wit of Sheridan, the oratory of Fox, the talent of Pitt, the caution of Peel, and the eloquence of a Palmerston, down to the raving madness of that superannuated viper, Brougham. The sublimity of soul, the loftiness of imagination, the touching pathos and eloquence of all that is refined, lovely, and beautiful, is nowhere to be heard in grander harmony and more glorious speech than in the discussion society of this modern temple of everything that can elevate the souls of man above the thoughts of a fall in the price of cotton, having a large stock on hand."

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The year 1847 is doubly notable in the annals of the institution. In that year R. W. Emerson delivered a course of lectures, afterwards included in the essays on "Representative Men," and on May 10 "The Athenæum Literary and Dramatic Reading Society" was formed, with E. O. Bleackley as secretary. It seems strange to us to read that such a society was not allowed to produce stage plays, and it was not until 1862 that permission to do so was granted. Prior to that time plays were read, but costumes, scenery, and accessories were not used. The first plays produced were "The Chimney Corner" and "The Lottery Ticket." About the same time the Davenport Brothers astounded large audiences by the performance of their famous cabinet trick, which they claimed was done by the aid of supernatural powers. Three members of the Theatre Royal stock company determined to expose the whole affair, and the first performance was given in the Athenæum Lecture Hall. Henry Irving personated Dr. Ferguson, who had accompanied the Davenports from America, and opened with a droll speech containing replies to questions sent from the audience, and delivered in a style which was a perfect burlesque of the individual represented. Then followed the performance of the Davenport Brothers' tricks by Philip Day and Frederick Maccabe. The whole was immensely successful, and was repeated to a crowded audience in the Free Trade Hall.

THE FIRE IN 1873.

Early in the morning of September 24, 1873, a fire broke out which nearly burnt the building to the ground, destroyed two-thirds of a fine collection of books, and did damage to the extent of £12,000. A life-size portrait of Richard Cobden and one of John Ashton Nicholls were also destroyed. Rebuilding operations were commenced without delay, the present Lecture Hall being added to the building, which was reopened on January 22, 1875, by a soiree at the Free Trade Hall, at which Lord Chief Justice Cockburn presided, supported by the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Houghton, and J. A. Roebuck, M.P.



PRINCESS STREET.

PART III.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

ITS ORIGIN.

Early in 1824 three Manchester gentlemen, Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Fairbairn, the well-known machinist, Mr. Thomas Hopkins, and Mr. Richard Roberts, the inventor, were conversing upon the proposal to establish an institution for the promotion of literature and the fine arts, when it was suggested that another one should be formed to teach the application of science to mechanical and manufacturing art, for the benefit of young men who needed practical instruction and had not the means to obtain it unless offered to them at a cheap rate. Each agreed to contribute ten pounds to the cost and to endeavour to induce others to follow their example. On April 17 a public meeting was held at the Bridgewater Arms, High Street, Benjamin Heywood in the chair, at which it was resolved that an institution, to be called the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, should be formed, the leading objects of which should be the delivery of lectures on the various sciences and their application to the arts, and the establishment of a suitable library for reference

and circulation. In this way was originated the first such institution opened in England. Land was secured in Cooper Street, nearly opposite to where the Town Hall entrance is, and a building was erected at a cost of £7,000, which was raised by shares. It was opened on March 30, 1825, and in addition to lectures and the formation of a library and the opening of a reading room, a number of evening classes were organized. In 1834, a boys' day school was opened, followed soon afterwards by one for girls. From the first the institution was a great success, and in 1841 there were 1,300 members paying an annual subscription of a pound each. Another feature of the Institution was the holding of social gatherings, which were attended by leading men who delivered addresses on various topics. These included Lord Brougham, Ralph Waldo Emerson, George Dawson, of Birmingham, Charles Swain, William Fairbairn, and Canon Hugh Stowell.

VISIT OF LORD BROUGHAM.

Lord Brougham's visit took place on July 21, 1835, and in the course of his address he made a reference to Dr. Henry, who was at that time the president of the Literary and Philosophical Society. "I met an old worthy friend of mine, a man of great ability and learning, your townsman, Dr. Henry. We were fellow-collegians, and learned chemistry together, though, God wot, he learned a great deal more than I did." Lord Brougham was at that time at the zenith of his popularity, and when posting to the north on one occa-

sion his carriage met with a slight accident near the end of the journey. Somehow, the news got to London the following day that the carriage had been overturned, and that his lordship was killed. In due course a long biographical notice of him appeared in the columns of the *Times*, together with criticisms on his character and ability as a lawyer and a statesman, by Thomas Barnes, the editor. Lord Brougham therefore had an opportunity of reading the views of him held by the leading English journal. In 1851 Fanny Kemble gave a reading from Shakespere's *Merry Wives of Windsor* in aid of the funds of the Institution, and three years later Macready treated the members to a recital of the whole of *Macbeth*, and subsequently to a reading from the English poets. In 1837 the first of a number of exhibitions of works of art and industry was held, and proved to be a great success, being visited by forty thousand persons. A year later a second one was attended by over a hundred thousand persons.

THE SECOND BUILDING.

Early in the fifties the directors, finding that more accommodation was necessary in order that the Institution might cope successfully with its ever-increasing amount of work, took steps for the erection of a larger building. The appeal to the public for financial assistance was well responded to, land in David Street (Princess Street) was purchased, and in June, 1855, the foundation stone was laid by Oliver Heywood. Two years later the building, which in all had cost £20,000,

was opened to the members, John Angell being head master and Miss Pilcher lady principal. The exhibition held on the occasion proved to be a great success, and the proceeds materially increased the building fund. Thus newly housed, the Institution continued its work until 1882, when, in accordance with newer and broader views in the matter of Technical Education, it was converted into a Technical School. Its history during the last twenty years does not require recital; but the building serves to remind us of a time when a few far-seeing, broad-minded Manchester men inaugurated a movement which has in our time witnessed a remarkable development in the numerous Technical Schools and Colleges now to be found in all parts of the world.

AN OPPOSITION MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

It has often been said that no movement ever succeeds without its success prompting individuals to commence another on similar lines. It was so in connection with the Manchester Mechanics' Institution. In 1829, owing to some dissatisfaction, a rival Mechanics' Institution was commenced. At first the members, who were about a hundred in number, met in a joiner's shop that formerly stood in a timber yard near the top of Brazennose Street, where classes were held and a small library formed. The movement was never successful, although for about ten years it managed to exist. One of its strongest supporters was the well-known reformer, Joseph Hume, M.P., who on one occasion, when presiding at a dinner, urged upon the

members to launch out, and to erect a large hall suitable for the delivery of lectures by leading men. The idea was adopted, land was purchased, and in August, 1839, the foundation stone of the Hall of Science, Campfield, was laid. Although a few addresses were delivered in the new hall, disaster followed the venture, and ultimately it was purchased, in 1852, by Alderman John Potter, and became the first Municipal Library opened in the city.

THE CARPENTERS' HALL.

At the corner of Altrincham Street, and extending over a number of shops, is a large room now used for a dancing-room, but originally intended for a very different purpose. It was built by the carpenters and joiners of the city to form a rallying-place where working men might meet to discuss their grievances, and where reformers might urge the cause of reform. It was opened on November 12, 1838, and within its walls Feargus O'Connor, the Chartist, often spoke, and advocated, in addition to the points of the Charter, his land purchase system. The National Land Company, which was evolved by his efforts, had the following objects in view:—"To purchase land, erect buildings, and allot them to its members upon such terms, as shall enable them to become small freeholders, and to live in comparative independence. The share capital was 130,000, divided into 100,000 shares. I have before me a member's book issued to Hiram Astley, who subscribed for four shares, and made his final

payment on January 18, 1848. Mr. Astley, like many other followers of the Chartist leader, lost his money, for the company collapsed.

The year 1838 was marked by the opening of the Lyceums in Ancoats, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, and Salford, which were conducted on lines similar to those of the Mechanics' Institution, with similar objects in view. Further opportunities may arise for speaking of them more in detail; for the present we shall note a concert given in the Carpenters' Hall to celebrate the opening of the Chorlton-upon-Medlock Institution. It took place on Thursday, January 10, 1839, under the conductorship of D. W. Banks, of Monday evening concerts fame. The vocalists were ten in number, comprising two each of treble and alto (male) range, with three tenors and three basses. The programme included nineteen vocal items, of which five were by Bishop. In spite of the assistance thus obtained and a contribution from a bazaar fund, the Chorlton Lyceum never proved a success. Few streets have seen more changes than has Princess Street, for not only have the names Bond, David, and Brook (as far as the river) streets disappeared, but in the course of forty years great blocks of inferior property have been replaced by fine buildings and street improvements. The first of this series of changes took place when the clearance was made prior to the erection of the Town Hall, and the latest was in connection with the making of Whitworth Street and the erection of the warehouses that have since sprung up on both sides of the new thorough-

fare. In the latter case the change was particularly desirable on account of the large number of dilapidated buildings opening into narrow streets and miserable courts that a few years ago extended from Princess Street to London Road.



PALL MALL MEMOIRS.

PART I.

Before Market Street was widened Pall Mall was a cul-de-sac, extending from King Street to Newmarket Street, from which access to Market Street, for foot-passengers only, could be obtained by two narrow passages, Wright's Court and Worsley Court. Where Pall Mall opens into Market Street there stood a three-storied building, which towered above the neighbouring shops. It must have been somewhat peculiar in appearance, for whilst the ground floor windows were filled with the small panes of the period, the tops of the upper windows instead of being straight were arched.

THE EARLY DAYS OF AGNEWS.

Such was the appearance of the premises of Agnew and Zanetti in the later twenties of the last century. We shall now trace the early history of the great firm. In the directory for 1810 we find mention of two brothers of the name of Zanetti, both in business as carvers and gilders. One brother, Vincent, was in business at Wright's Court, just mentioned; and the other one, Vittore, was close by at 94, Market Street Lane. In that year a youth, Thomas Agnew, came from Liverpool, and commenced his apprenticeship to the latter;

and at the close of that period he became a partner in the concern, the style of which became Zanetti and Agnew. In 1826 the former retired from the firm, his son stepping into his place, but with the altered name of Agnew and Zanetti. When a few years later the Italian retired Mr. Agnew became sole proprietor, and ultimately the firm became Thomas Agnew and Sons. When Pall Mall was extended the commissioners who had charge of the street alterations purchased Agnew's premises, paying what was generally regarded as an exorbitantly high price for them. Under these circumstances the firm removed to 14, Exchange Street. In view of the trade done by the firm to-day, it may be pointed out that they were originally "carvers, gilders, looking-glass and picture frame, barometer, thermometer, and hydrometer makers." In 1824 Thomas Agnew lived at 25, Gartside Street, Deansgate, but in 1836 he had removed to Richmond Hill, Broughton Road, in those days a pleasantly-situated spot. When Salford was incorporated he became a member of the Borough Council, and in 1851 was mayor. His interest in art matters prompted him to take great interest in the formation of the Peel Park collection of pictures, towards which he contributed 120 paintings and 400 engravings, including some of the finest published by his firm. In theological matters he was a follower of Swedenborg, and was exceedingly active in connection with the Bolton Street Chapel, devoting special attention to the day and Sunday schools. He died at Fairhope, Eccles, on March 24, 1872, aged 76 years.

AN OLD-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS.

Next door but one to Agnews' shop was a double-fronted shop surmounted by a somewhat ornate gable in "black and white"; and a little higher up the street was the more picturesque building occupied by Mr. Hyde. The first-named shop was occupied more than a century ago by John Walker, and, after his death, by his widow, Mary Walker. Their business was that of an ironmonger's, and when the opening out of Pall Mall absorbed a portion of the shop Mary Walker still continued the business in the narrow section of the shop left to her. The alterations resulted in a slice off the length, and a piece of the front portion of the shop being taken away, and as the building was then left so it remains to-day, its narrow frontage being evident to the most casual glance. The business, still that of an ironmonger, is conducted by W. S. Nesbitt, and A. H. Nesbitt, who, with their late brother, succeeded their father, who in turn was an employé with Mary Walker. Mr. W. S. Nesbitt is well known in musical circles as the conductor of the Manchester Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

HOW TO STAMP OUT RABIES.

In the days when the movements of the reformers were causing the police authorities much unnecessary worry, another and a more serious problem presented itself for solution. Several mad dogs had made their appearance in the neighbourhood, and every dog

was regarded with a suspicious eye. As a result of the blanketeering movement, Dr. White's house at the corner of Cross Street, and King Street was utilized for a time as a barracks for foot soldiers. At the same time Joe Nadin's runners were armed with the old flint-lock muskets, and they received instructions to shoot any dogs found in the streets. One of the runners, a tall man, bordering on seventy years of age, was blind with one eye and squinted with the other, which earned for him the name of "Cock-eye." One morning, as "Cock-eye" was walking along King Street, an unfortunate dog turned out of Pall Mall and trotted down King Street. As he was passing the terrace that fronted the barracks "Cock-eye" saw him, raised his musket, and fired. The dog escaped, but a terrible scream showed that someone else had not. The wife of a sergeant was sunning herself on the terrace, and she received the shot intended for the dog. Poor "Cock-eye" was at once seized by two soldiers, who placed him against the wall, whilst the sentry levelled his bayonet close to his chest. The woman was found to be more frightened than hurt, the bullet having first hit the wall; and the runner was released. After this shooting in the streets was put a stop to, and the runners paraded in couples. One carried a long pike, which he stuck into any unfortunate dog that came in their way, whilst the other one knocked it on the head with a heavy hammer which he carried for the purpose. Such were the means adopted to stamp out rabies.

THE WATERWORKS COMPANY.

Nearly a century ago the Manchester and Salford Waterworks Company was formed to supply the two towns with water. One of the most active men connected with the company was P. W. Dumville, an attorney, whose office was at 23, Pall Mall, and who acted as solicitor to the undertaking. Their plan was to pump water from the Medlock into reservoirs at Beswick, from whence it was to be conveyed in stone pipes to all parts of the district. When the works were completed the water was turned on. Then came disaster. Many of the pipes burst with the pressure of water, and those that did not burst were of so porous a nature that the water oozed through them. Specimens of these pipes can be seen in several of our parks, and others are occasionally met with during street excavations. This nearly ruined the company, who were compelled to put down iron pipes. In all they laid down seventy miles of these, and supplied the 1,400,000 gallons of water daily consumed by the townspeople of those days. For over twenty years the company paid no dividend, although from time to time they obtained increased Parliamentary powers. In 1826 they completed the reservoir at Gorton, but they were unable to meet the increasing demands of a fast-growing community, until at length the Corporation took up the matter. By a Bill that passed through Parliament in July, 1847, the Corporation purchased from the company their properties and rights for the sum of

£538,700. The construction of the Woodhead reservoir was then commenced in 1848, but the series of works was not completed until 1877, the cost having been about £2,500,000. The story of Thirlmere completes the link connecting the days when Manchester drew its principal water supply from the river Medlock with the present.

A WELL-KNOWN SURGEON.

The solicitor to the Waterworks Company had a son, who adopted the medical profession. As a boy Arthur W. Dumville attended the Grammar School, and was intended by his father for the legal profession. Having a natural inclination to the medical, he was placed with Thomas Fawdington, whose consulting-rooms, still standing, were at the corner of Lever Street and Back Piccadilly. Having duly qualified, Mr. Dumville commenced practice, and met with a very considerable amount of success. As a member of the consulting staff at the Infirmary he rendered valuable services, and when a medical school was opened at the corner of Grosvenor and Chatham Streets, Piccadilly, he was appointed lecturer on Practical and Surgical Anatomy. To considerable professional skill was added a kindly disposition and an urbanity of manner; and at the time of his death he was one of the most successful and popular surgeons in the city. He was known to correctly diagnose promptly at the first casual glance a serious case that had baffled the skill of another

professional man in whose care the patient had been for six months. He died at Ardwick Green on July 7, 1871, in his 59th year. At the time of his death he was senior consulting surgeon on the Infirmary staff.



PALL MALL MEMOIRS.

PART II.

THE EXAMINER AND TIMES.

In 1824 Archibald Prentice, the son of a Scotch farmer, who, settling in Manchester nearly ten years before, had identified himself with the cause of Reform, purchased from Mrs. Cowdroy the paper known as *Cowdroy's Gazette*, which, at the time, had a weekly circulation of from 1,000 to 1,500 copies. The venture was not a success, and in 1827 Mr. Prentice made an arrangement with his creditors. One result of this was the establishment by a company, including several of Mr. Prentice's creditors, of a new paper called the *Manchester Times*, with which the *Gazette* was incorporated. In 1828 the title of *Gazette* was dropped; and the *Manchester Times* was issued by Prentice from an office in the Angel Yard, that formerly occupied the site of Hopwood Avenue in the Market Place. He afterwards removed to Market Street, but eventually settled in Ducie Place, where, in partnership with William Catterall, who was for many years Manchester reporter for the *Times*, he not only published the *Manchester Times*, but also carried on a general printing

business. In 1845 the newspaper was sold to three gentlemen, two of whom were well known in connection with the Anti-Corn Law League. These were Henry Rawson, who, in 1868, was Parliamentary candidate for Salford, H. B. Peacock, dramatic critic, and A. W. Paulton, the first lecturer engaged by the Anti-Corn Law League. The following year saw the appearance of a new Liberal paper, bearing the title of the *Manchester Examiner*, printed and published by Thomas Ballantyne, at 7, Pall Mall. The chief promoters were John Bright, Dr. M'Kerrow, and Mr. (afterwards Sir) Edward Watkin. At first the paper was a weekly one, with an average circulation of 5,500. In 1847 it became a bi-weekly journal, of which the price was fourpence.

In 1848 a union was effected with the *Times*, and the paper became the *Examiner and Times*, published by Alexander Ireland and Co., Mr. Paulton becoming the editor. The manner in which the last-named entered into public life was curious. Being present at an Anti-Corn Law Lecture at Bolton, he was very much annoyed at the manner in which the lecturer replied to questions put to him by an opponent, and, ascending the platform, answered them himself. As a result, he abandoned the medical profession, and took up lecturing and journalism. He was editor of the *Examiner and Times* from 1848 to 1854, when he was succeeded by Henry Dunckley, who had previously acted as a Baptist minister in Salford. Mr. Dunckley's introduction to the world of journalism was one of the results of Lord

Derby's accession to office in 1852. There was a feeling that he and his friends might make some attempt to restore the Corn Laws, and a meeting of Free Traders was accordingly held in Newall's Buildings. A plan of campaign was arranged, a fund was opened to furnish the sinews of war, in a month it amounted to £70,000, and a large sum of money was offered as a prize for the best essay on the Corn Laws. The successful competitor was Henry Dunkley and the high degree of merit that marked his essay caused the proprietors of the *Examiner and Times* to offer him the position of editor. For over thirty years he held the position, and in 1879 the value of his services in that capacity was publicly acknowledged at a dinner held in the Reform Club, when a presentation, consisting of 700 guineas, a silver service, and a number of selected books, was made to him. His most notable productions were the well-known lectures of Verax, which produced for him national fame.

When the Home Rule split took place the *Examiner and Times* remained Liberal, but in 1889 it was sold to the Manchester Newspaper Company, of which Sir J. C. Lee was chairman. As a Unionist paper it was a failure, and in 1892 it passed into the hands of the Sowers. A year later it again changed hands, but on March 10, 1894, the editor said in a leading article, "This is the last issue of the *Manchester Examiner*." This was seventy years after Archibald Prentice had purchased the *Gazette* out of which it had grown.

ALEXANDER IRELAND.

A few words remain to be said of Alexander Ireland, who for so many years was associated with it. The attempt to sketch in the briefest manner within the limits of a few lines the story of his life, work, and influence is impossible. So much interest has rarely been crowded into the life of a business man. To give even a list of all the literary men whose acquaintance he made would fill a page. As a youth he visited Sir Walter Scott, and in later life became the friend of Thomas Carlyle, R. W. Emerson, J. A. Froude, J. Russell Lowell, William and Robert Chambers, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Alfred Tennyson, and a host of others. For thirty years he was the friend of Leigh Hunt, and to him Manchester people were indebted for opportunities of hearing many famous speakers, including Elihu Burritt, the famous American blacksmith, and George Dawson, the equally famous Birmingham preacher and lecturer, and it is very doubtful whether Emerson would ever have found his way to the city had it not been for that magnetic influence that Mr. Ireland seemed to exert over his friends. Whilst engaged in correspondence with the leading men in the literary world, his ripe judgment and wide experience were at the service of unknown correspondents who might venture to ask for his opinion or guidance. In such cases he was ungrudging in the time occupied, and would accompany his reply with newspaper cuttings or pamphlets bearing upon the subject of inquiry.

But Mr. Ireland was not merely the friend of literary men. He was a worker himself, and several of his productions are monuments of industry and ability. Foremost amongst these is his *List of the Writings of William Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt*. Included in the volume is also a chronological list of the writings of Charles Lamb, and 22 pages of notes on Lamb. So far as Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt are concerned the book is not simply a list of book titles, for each entry is accompanied by explanations and published opinions concerning the particular item that make Mr. Ireland's book a constant delight to the lovers of the two great essayists. Then take *The Book-Lover's Enchiridion*, which made its first appearance in modest form as a small parchment-bound volume, but which grew, as most of Mr. Ireland's books did, until it took the form of the sumptuous large paper edition issued in 1883. Within its covers we find the opinions of the world's greatest men on the *Solace and Companionship of Books*. Another example of vigorous growth is furnished in the memoir of his friend, Emerson. It first appeared as an obituary notice occupying five columns in the columns of the *Examiner and Times* for April 29, 1882, and it finally took the form of an octavo volume of 338 pages illustrated with three portraits of the great American. Another monumental work was his volume on *William Hazlitt, essayist and critic*, being selections from his writings, together with a biographical and critical memoir, a fine portrait of Hazlitt, and a splendid plate representing Wintersloe Hutt, his favourite resort. These four books are an enduring monument

to one of Manchester's greatest literary men, but they only form a small portion of his life's work. To those who assembled at the Crematorium on that December afternoon in 1894, the feeling was present that the community was the poorer by the departure of a strong, simple, and heroic soul.

A WELL-KNOWN BUSINESS CONCERN.

Amongst the innumerable agents in the city none stand higher than do the firm of Dilworth's. The founder of the firm was James Dilworth, who was born in 1790, and who learnt the technicalities of the cotton trade at Messrs. Birley and Hornby's mill at Preston. In 1820 he commenced business as a yarn agent in Preston, visiting Manchester, Blackburn, and Chorley weekly. In 1837 he opened a warehouse in Winter's Buildings, St. Ann's Street, continuing the business at Preston in addition. Winter's Buildings stood at the corner of St. Ann's Churchyard, and derived their name from Gilbert Winter, who lived at Stock's House. The buildings were chiefly notable from the fact that in one of the rooms the Liverpool and Manchester railway scheme was developed, and the earlier meetings of the directors held. The Stephensons, father and son, were often there. Mr. Dilworth took his son into partnership in 1838, and a few years later the Preston office was closed. In later years removals were made to Back Square, New Market Hall, and finally to Pall Mall and Strutt Street. James Dilworth died in 1854 and his son in 1860. In 1855 Abraham Haworth had been

admitted to a partnership, and in later years he was joined by his brothers, Jesse and Walter. Since then the name of Haworth has become unceasingly familiar to Manchester people, and few educational or reform movements have been inaugurated in the city without their active co-operation.



PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART I.

Few thoroughfares in Manchester possess a more interesting record than that associated with Piccadilly. This is somewhat curious, because little more than a century ago it was wholly situated beyond the buildings that formed the town of those days. We have in the Court-Leet records several references to the daub-holes ; and in other places we find frequent mention of Lever's Hall. The story of the daub-holes and the mansion must be left for the present, and we will endeavour to trace the history of the street itself.

When the plan of 1650 was produced, Marketsted Lane, as it was then called, ended in the fields through which a country road led to Stockport. Just beyond the top of the street, on the left-hand side, surrounded by a garden, orchard, and fields, was the town house of the Levers, in front of which open fields extended as far as the eye could reach. A century later the same state of things existed, and on Casson and Berry's map, although Garrot Lane is marked, the narrow lane leading to there from the top of Market Street Lane is unnamed. It was unbuilt upon, fields bounding it on either side. Very soon afterwards the Infirmary was built ; but the

value of the thoroughfare to the town does not seem to have been enhanced, as the following announcement will show. It is taken from the *Manchester Mercury* for 1769:—"It is reported that there will soon be opened a new spacious road from the top of the hill beyond the Infirmary to Ardwick Green Bridge, but whether it will be done at the expense of the inhabitants of the town of Manchester, who will not be in the least benefited by it, is not yet determined, though it is a matter of some consequence, as it will cost the inhabitants several hundred pounds." If the writer of this paragraph could have seen the thoroughfare a century later he would, perhaps, have revised the opinion so strongly expressed.

IN 1776.

The map of the town, as it appeared in 1776, shows that even then the outlook from the Infirmary windows was across a wide extent of open fields. Oldham Street, Lever Street, and most of Port Street were not even laid out, and the same may be said of Portland Street, near the corner of which Mr. Acton had his recently-acquired garden. This impression is confirmed by the story told about Mr. Delauney, the turkey-red dyer of Crumpsall and Blackley. In 1778 the Rev. Rowland Broomhead was appointed to take charge of the congregation of the little Roman Catholic chapel that had been erected in Rook Street four years earlier. Father Broomhead resided near the chapel in Rook Street, and one day as he was talking at his front door with Mr. Delauney they

saw Squire Trafford with the harriers kill a hare in the fields near the Infirmary. The idea of open fields in such a locality seems somewhat incongruous to us, but more remarkable still is it to hear of the Manchester Harriers. At the foot of an old map we have a pictorial representation of the hounds with huntsmen following a hare across the fields, which in those days bounded the river Irwell on both sides almost up to Salford Bridge. Although the hounds have long ago ceased to be associated with Manchester life we have had handed down to us some account of the animals who run their quarry to earth near to the Infirmary. They were very large animals, much larger than the foxhounds of the present day, and although slow were very sure in their operations. Their cry was very melodious, and when a dog got upon the scent he would squat upon his haunches, and with the greatest gravity give tongue, after which he would commence his hunting operations with the utmost deliberation. The result was that it was an easy matter for persons on foot to join the hunt. Another connection of the hunt with Piccadilly lay in the fact that the daughter of a one-time master of the hunt drowned herself in the pond that formerly stood there.

A resident of the town wrote of it as he remembered it in the year 1776. After referring to the three feet wide flag, which enabled foot passengers to cross the "river" Tib at the top of Market Street, he says that the Infirmary pond surrounded by a wall was still known as the daub-holes. On the opposite side of the lane

was an old half-timbered house, the ancient home of the Levers. From there no building was passed until Garratt Lane was reached near to which stood Standley Barn. Shooter's brook ran open through the fields, and was crossed by a bridge, near which stood a cottage occupied at that time by a swivel weaver named Edge. A little nearer to where Whitworth Street now is was the first mile stone standing in the hedge backing ; and at the corner of a lane now represented by Granby Row an old cottage stood surrounded by a garden. Near the river a footpath led down to the river bank, and it was usual for travellers to water their horses in the clear stream. Russell Street was represented by a country lane bounded on either side by rows of trees forming the principal approach to Chorlton Hall. Just as the road emerged on to Ardwick Green a blacksmith's shop and the village stocks were seen standing between the corner of Rusholme Lane and the thatch-roofed and whitewashed roadside inn bearing the name of *George and the Dragon*. The buildings named were the only ones to be seen by the wayfarer as he passed from Manchester to Ardwick in 1776.

LEVER'S HALL.

The old black and white mansion which formed, for many generations, the town residence of the Levers, of Alkington, has long since disappeared from sight, although until recently a last remaining portion of the building could be seen at the rear of the White Bear Hotel that had been erected on the site. A sketch of

the building, as it originally was, has survived. It was a plain black and white structure having two rooms at the front, one at each side of the entrance which was approached by a flat-topped porch. In front of the house was a small garden in which grew several trees, and it was divided from the lane by means of wooden palings. The best known member of the Lever family was Sir Ashton Lever, who formed a most extensive collection of curiosities. A gentleman who visited it at Alkrington described it in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May, 1773, and he said that it was contained in 1,300 glass cases and filled three large rooms. The writer describing the collection of warlike weapons included in the museum said that they were "desperate, diabolical instruments of destruction, invented, no doubt, by the devil himself." Large numbers of people visited the museum, as many as 3,320 being admitted on one day. This induced Sir Ashton to remove the whole collection to London, and it was taken thither in carts, the whole being housed at Leicester House, where it filled sixteen rooms. The result was disappointing, and the owner obtained an Act of Parliament which enabled him to dispose of the collection by means of a lottery. The lottery was advertised in the *Manchester Mercury* for September 27, 1785. We are there told that Sir Ashton had spent £50,000 in bringing the objects together, and that the receipts from entrance moneys had averaged £1,883 per annum for the previous three years. Thirty-six thousand tickets at a guinea each were issued, but only eight thousand were taken up. The winning ticket



PICCADILLY,

As it would have appeared if Sir William Fairbairn's scheme had been adopted (see preface).



was purchased by Mr. Parkinson who built rooms for the exhibition of the objects in Blackfriars Road ; but the movement ended in disaster, and in 1806 the whole were sold by auction. The catalogue extended over 410 pages, the lots numbering 7,879, and the sale occupied sixty-five days. Long ere this the collector had died, committing suicide at the *Bull's Head Inn*, Market Place, on February 1, 1788 ; he having come to Manchester for the purpose of attending quarter sessions. After the family ceased to use the Manchester house it was let for a variety of purposes, an advertisement as far back as 1771 announcing that it was to be let either altogether or divided into two parts. It was pointed out that it might be used as an inn or a boarding school.

The family name, however, still survives in the street name of Lever Street. Long before that thoroughfare was made Piccadilly itself was known as Lever's Row, much of the land extending from there in the direction of Ancoats belonging originally to the family. In 1812, when Market Street Lane was re-named Market Street, Lever's Row was re-named Piccadilly. By that time much building had taken place, and the street had lost its rural appearance, although it continued for a number of years to be a high-class residential district.



PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART II.

THE HISTORY OF THE INFIRMARY POND.

THE DAUB-HOLES.

In the Court Leet Records we find several references to the daub-holes, but we will confine our attention to one only. This is under date 1555, when we read that "The jury order that Thomas Trafford, gentleman, do make and set two stiles," one of which led from Market Sted Lane into the field called the brick croft, and another leading from the same field to the "lane or foot-way now in the holding of Robert Holme." At the same time Robert Holme was ordered to place a stile in the said lane, leading to a place called the "Daub-Holes." The lane was probably the predecessor of West Mosley Street, from some portion of which a foot-path across the fields led to the daub-holes.

A few words of explanation will show the origin of this very curious place-name. When our forefathers set about building a house in the days before burnt bricks had come into general use, they commenced operations by putting together the framework of the house. This was formed of roughly-hewn uprights and

beams of oak bolted together by wooden bolts. The inner surfaces of the uprights and outside crossbeams were grooved, and into these grooves were placed osiers or withies, as willow branches were variously called. These branches were woven together into a sort of network, on which was spread daub. Daub was the name of clay with which water had been worked until it was of the consistency of mortar. After this had dried and hardened the outside of the building was painted, the oaken framework black and the other portions white, thus producing the appearance so familiar in many old houses. It will at once be seen how important a commodity "daub" was to the townsfolk of Queen Elizabeth's day. Some of the burgesses, when requiring a supply, found it easier to dig the clay from the street that ran in front of their houses, and many times the Court Leet took up the matter, imposing fines upon the offenders. The soil at the top of Market Street appears to have been peculiarly suitable for the making of daub, and would therefore be in constant demand. As the clay was removed the holes thus formed filled with water during the rainy seasons; and as this could not drain away the ponds came into existence, and in time became fairly extensive.

THE DUCKING-STOOL.

A second period in the history of the pond commenced early in the seventeenth century, when as a result of the combination of several causes it was no longer possible to keep the ducking-stool upon its earlier site at

Pool Fold. The ducking-stool consisted of a chair fastened on to one end of a long pole, which was secured in the centre to a post fixed on the side of the pond. The pole worked on a pivot, and the chair could therefore be placed on the bank or over the water at will. Refractory women and scolds were placed in the chair and secured, after which they were swung round until they reached a spot as far from the bank as possible, and then were ducked into the pond by the loosing of the other end of the pole. This was repeated until it was thought that sufficient punishment had been inflicted, after which the prisoner was released to make her way home as best she could. In a sketch of the duck-holes ducking-stool drawn by Barritt we have a representation of a woman being so punished. Around the pond are grouped a number of onlookers, and behind the official who has charge of the pole is another one, probably the beadle. The prisoner was evidently well secured, for there is no appearance of a protest or struggle against the impending ducking. The background of the picture consists of trees standing probably where the Infirmary buildings are to-day ; whilst to the right are two barnlike erections opening on to a lane, probably the one already referred to. How long the ducking-stool stood at the daub-holes we are not told, but it had evidently fallen into disuse before the erection of the Infirmary, which event ushered in the third stage in the history of the pond.

THE INFIRMARY POND.

When the Infirmary was built on land purchased from Sir Oswald Mosley, the Mosley family gave the land in front, occupied partly by the daub-holes and partly open fields, to be devoted to the making of a pond with a walk round it. The sole condition was that it should be open to the burgesses for ever, and it was stipulated that if at any time the trustees of the Infirmary should seek to use the land in any way, that it should revert to the Mosley family. In accordance with this condition the pond was cleansed and extended to six hundred and fifteen feet. Its width at the Mosley Street end was eighty feet and at the Portland Street end sixty feet. It was railed round, and the adjacent grounds were laid out in flower beds and walks. A century ago it was therefore a popular resort. The pond was not merely ornamental, as for many years it was one of the chief water supplies in the town. The water was conveyed in pipes under Oldham Street from the Shudehill pits, which formerly stood where many of the buildings in Swan Street now stand. A further change was made at the close of the eighteenth century, when the Lord of the Manor, Sir Oswald Mosley, placed a pumping engine on the banks of the Medlock at Holt Town for the purpose of raising water from the river into a reservoir constructed there and connected by pipes with the reservoir at Shudehill. The formation of the Manchester and Salford Waterworks Company and the construction by them of reservoirs further away from the town

resulted in the Piccadilly pond no longer being used as a water supply. .

It very soon became a nuisance in dry seasons, and in 1836 the proposal was made that after a thorough cleansing fountains might be erected near the two extremities to prevent the water from becoming stagnant. In 1851 Queen Victoria visited Manchester, and received a most enthusiastic welcome. The Royal procession passed along Piccadilly, and with the object of improving the appearance of the thoroughfare the city fathers had three fountains erected in connection with the pond. The jets threw columns of water to a height of thirty feet, and when in operation the fountains must have produced a pleasing effect. The nuisance arising from the stagnant water was not, however, perceptibly minimized; and the Corporation in conjunction with the trustees of the Infirmary decided in May, 1853, to fill up the pond, leaving two of the fountains standing. These were removed at a later period, and the esplanade commenced in 1853 was then completed.

THE ESPLANADE.

The cost of filling up the pond after the drawing off of the water was great, over £3,000 being voted out of the improvement funds for the purpose. Like most other corporation estimates this sum proved to be too small, and in all £6,305 was expended. Of the statues standing on the esplanade, the one to Sir Robert Peel



MANCHESTER INFIRMARY IN 1860, SHOWING FOUNTAINS.

was the first to be erected. The movement for its erection was inaugurated at a public meeting held in the Town Hall on July 8, 1850, and in the following January an exhibition of the statuettes submitted in competition was held in the Royal Institution. The design of W. Calder Marshall, A.R.A., was selected and on October 10, 1853, the monument was inaugurated. Amongst those who took part in the proceedings was Mr. W. E. Gladstone, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, and who made a most important speech on the occasion, bearing upon the threatened war with Russia.

Before the statue was completed a proposal had been made to erect a monument to the Duke of Wellington, and on September 28, 1852, the proposal was endorsed at a meeting held in the Town Hall. The work was entrusted to the celebrated sculptor Noble, who produced the statue with its four emblematic figures representing Wisdom, Valour, Victory and Peace. The inauguration took place on August 30, 1856. The smaller statues were erected in memory of Dr. John Dalton and James Watt. The one of Manchester's greatest scientist was inaugurated on July 25, 1855. It is a copy of Chantry's statue, and like the others is of bronze. The last of the four to be erected was that to James Watt, the artist in this case being Theed. Nearly half a century later the one to Queen Victoria was erected. Such in brief is the history of Manchester's best known open space, and one hopes that whatever the Corporation may decide upon with reference to the Infirmary site, no encroachment upon the space will

be attempted. The area has played so important a part in the history of the city that it should be left intact, in accordance with the condition laid down by the Mosley family a century and a half ago.



PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART III.

Residence in Piccadilly was pleasant in the early part of the last century, although many conditions of life, such as we know them were entirely wanting. The streets were not kept in so clean a condition, the lighting of them was very inferior, and the means adopted to protect property were even more primitive. A glance at these matters will be of interest to many, and should have an educational value to some of my younger readers.

STRIKING A LIGHT.

Let us first visit the house of a Manchester cotton-spinner on a winter morning eighty years ago. It is still dark, but the clocks have announced the hour for rising, and we hear a peculiar clicking sound. If we look in the direction from which the sound proceeds, we see sparks of light accompanying the sound. The early riser is busy with a flint and steel, endeavouring to obtain thereby the light necessary for igniting the candle that stands close at hand. A closer examination will show that the operator holds in one hand a piece of flint and in the other a piece of steel furnished with a handle. As the flint and steel are struck against one another

sparks are emitted. Just below the hands of the operator is a round metal box containing tinder, and the object is to allow the sparks to fall on the tinder and ignite it. If the spark expired the striking was resumed, and when a faint glow announced the ignition of the tinder the tiny spark of redness was blown carefully until the whole of the tinder was alight. Into the burning mass a match, tipped at one end with brimstone and about six inches long, was plunged. This, becoming lighted, the candle was lighted and in due course the fire.

The same conditions prevailed everywhere before the introduction of gas, petroleum, and electricity. The tinder was carefully prepared by burning rags, and some little technical skill was needed in its production. If the tinder was either over or under burnt, or had become damp the operator might strive in vain to obtain a light. The matches were prepared and sold by men who had their circle of clients, on whom they called with their wares. For many years the monopoly in the Piccadilly district was held by a man known as "Old Pepa." His matches had been well dipped in pure brimstone, and were sold at seven bunches a penny. The old-fashioned flint, steel, and tinder box, together with a few of the brimstone matches would form an interesting reminiscence of bygone days. About 1833 the first lucifer matches sold in Manchester were introduced by a man named Jones, and were sold at 1s. per box. The matches were broad and thin, and along with the box was a piece of sandpaper, through which, being doubled, the match was drawn sharply.

STREET LIGHTING.

Let us now glance at the early system of street lighting. Aston tells us that in 1826 the town was lighted by 3,000 lamps, of which 1,120 were supplied with gas, the remainder being oil lamps. The first serious attempt at street lighting took place in 1791, when an Act of parliament was obtained for the purpose of lighting, watching, and cleaning the town. The result was that a century ago 2,000 oil lamps were to be seen in our streets. These lamps were formed of stout glass basins, placed in a circular rim of iron, fastened by brackets against the walls of buildings. The glass, at the bottom especially, was so thick that the light from an oiled wick struggled, almost in vain, to penetrate it ; and the only result achieved was the making of the darkness visible. The lamps were lit in the evenings by lamplighters, who carried ladders and torches. The torch was an oil can with a long straight thick tube for a spout. The spout was filled with flax and this being lighted, burned brightly as the carrier ran through the streets. The introduction of gas was a great event, and when the first lamp was lighted crowds met nightly to see the wonderful sight. This was to be seen at the Prince's Tavern at the corner of Tasle Street, now John Dalton Street. The landlord manufactured the gas in one of his cellars, and the light was placed over the front door. In the early days of gas lighting, portable meters were unknown, and gas was charged by time and number of burners used.

THE WATCHMEN.

Contemporaneous with the oil lamps were the old watchmen known popularly as "Charlies." Many of them were elderly men, and their uniform included broad-brimmed hats with yellow hatbands, and heavy brown overcoats. Their duty was to patrol certain streets at intervals from eight in the evening to six in the morning in the winter months, and for shorter periods during the summer months. In the course of their rounds they proclaimed the hour of the night and the kind of weather which prevailed. Thus, when lying awake the householder would hear the slow tramp of the watchman and anon the sound of his voice proclaiming "past one, cold, wet morning," or "past four; fine, starry night." When not engaged in patrolling the watchmen sat in boxes provided for their use. The boxes were a little over five feet high, and about two feet square, with a seat inside and a door made in two halves. Until recently one of the old boxes could be seen in Chapel Street, Salford, between the houses numbered 49 and 51. As may be imagined, in the days when the streets were so badly lighted, and when hard drinking was general, the lot of the "Charlies" was not always a happy one. I well remember a story told by my grandfather, and which belonged to the period referred to. About the year 1816 he, along with a number of companions returning from a jollification, were crossing the Stockport Market Place when they saw a "Charlie's" box. Peering in, they observed that the occupant was asleep, and closing the doors they

secured them by means of a rope obtained from a market stall. On the back of the box were four small wheels for convenience of removal. Turning the box on its back, a gentle push was sufficient to send it rattling down the Mealhouse Brow until its progress was stopped in some way, the unfortunate occupant shouting at the top of his voice.

The watching of the streets of Manchester during the hours of night dates back to the middle of the seventeenth century, when two men were appointed to patrol the streets. It was not until 1783, however, that the town possessed a " Watch and Ward," and in 1826 there were eighty watchmen. In addition to this many owners of warehouses engaged private watchmen. The " Charlies " carried huge lanterns and large ricks, which they used to raise an alarm if necessary. I am afraid that so far as many night prowlers were concerned these ancient worthies acted very much upon Dogberry's advice.

THE ADVENT OF THE KNOCKER-UP.

: When Sir Charles Shaw took charge of the Manchester police force in 1839 he found that workpeople were in the habit of paying sixpence a week per family to the members of the old watch for calling them up in the mornings. He at once stopped the practice, but so many complaints were made by employers that he consented to allow the new policemen to call up working people living on their beats for twopence per week, the amount to be stopped out of their wages. This com-

pulsory stopping of twopence was resisted by the workers and the experiment was abandoned. This brought into existence the knocker-up, who, rod in hand, patrolled, and still patrols, the streets in the early hours of the morning, tapping at the bedroom windows of his patrons at the required hour.

THE HACKNEY COACHES.

Like most other articles in general use the modern cab and hansom are the results of a period of evolution. In 1750 two hackney coaches stood for hire in St. Ann's Square, but the town was so limited in extent, and the citizens had become so accustomed to the sedan chairs, that they met with only a small amount of success for some time. It is not surprising to find that sixty-five years later there were only twenty coaches plying for hire in the Square and in Piccadilly. Fifteen years later the number had increased to fifty, an additional stand having been formed along the middle of Market Street, extending from Palace Street towards High Street. The coaches of the early part of the last century were very heavy and clumsily built vehicles, drawn by two horses. In course of time the size was reduced, and one horse only was used. The first cabs introduced were peculiar in appearance and inconvenient in form. They consisted of a vehicle made to carry two passengers seated face to face with a driver's seat in front. It was slung between two wheels, and when in motion the vehicle was constantly tilting backwards in a most disconcerting fashion, forming a remarkable contrast to the rubber-tired "gondola" of our modern streets.

PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART IV.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

ITS INCEPTION.

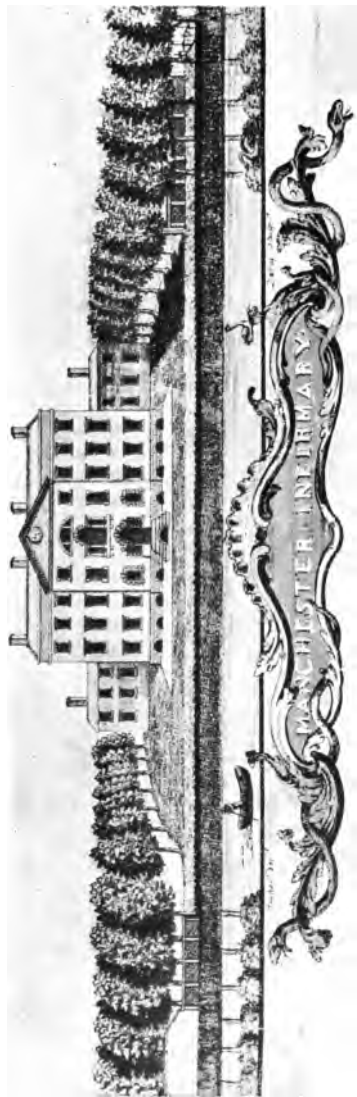
One of Manchester's earliest newspapers was *Orion Adams's Weekly Journal*, the first number of which was issued in January, 1752. The issue for April 8, 1752, contains an article and an advertisement respecting a proposed public infirmary. The article begins thus :—
“ A public infirmary for this place and neighbourhood has been long talk'd of, and is no doubt as much wished for as it is really wanted ” ; and further, we read that some gentlemen “ have begun a subscription, in order to furnish a house with twelve beds and other conveniences for this purpose, which is proposed to be opened at mid-summer next.” The advertisement announces that a meeting of the subscribers was to be held on Thursday, June 4, at seven o'clock in the evening at the Old Coffee House to consider the methods proper to effect and complete the design, and also intimates that George Floyd, Esq., Mr. Miles Bower, Mr. John Lee, and Mr. Joseph Bancroft were appointed to receive subscriptions. Two other names should be given in this connection, because the idea of forming such an institution appears

to have originated with the persons bearing them. They were Dr. Charles White, the physician who lived for many years in a house that stood on the site of the reference library, and James Massey, who paid the whole of the first year's expenses—£405—out of his own pocket.

In accordance with arrangements made a house was taken in Garden Street, Shudehill, and on June 24, 1752, the Manchester Infirmary opened its doors for the reception of patients. The first annual report speaks of the success that had marked the first year's working ; and intimates that the Trustees had already decided to erect a building capable of containing at least forty beds. An appeal for further financial support was made, and in 1754 a piece of land near the daub-holes was purchased from Sir Oswald Mosley.

THE PICCADILLY BUILDING.

The first stone of the new building was laid on May 20, 1754, and in the following year the opening took place, the total cost of the building and furniture being £4,000. The original building was a modest affair consisting of a central block, nine windows long, with two small wings. Five years later a musical entertainment was given in the gardens, the proceeds of which were added to the Infirmary fund. In 1780 a clock, surmounted by a turret and wind vane, were added at a cost of £142 ; and in 1781 additional land was obtained. At the same time it was decided to extend the benefits of the institution to surrounding towns, a scheme being drawn



MANCHESTER INFIRMARY, 1756.



up by which subscribers of twenty guineas should become trustees for life.

In 1783 a balloon ascent was made from the Infirmary grounds. It descended at Cromford, near Matlock Bath. A charge of one shilling was made to witness the ascent, the proceeds being added to the Infirmary funds. Extension followed extension every few years, the most important being in 1792, when a dispensary was added. It was necessary to make another appeal for financial support in order to meet the cost thus incurred, and as a result the churches were asked to assist.

MANCHESTER'S FIRST HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

All denominations united to make the collections a success, and the magnificent total of £4,297 17s. 6d. was obtained, the congregation of the Mosley Street Independent Chapel leading with £220. It should be remembered that the number of places of worship did not exceed fifty.

In 1795 James Massey, who had acted as president from the foundation of the institution, died, and a few years later the charity benefited by an Act of Parliament which enabled Sir Oswald Mosley to grant to it "certain lands and hereditaments." In 1825 the clock was first lighted by gas at the expense of Richard Ormerod, and in 1832 the whole of the building was cased with stone, and four fluted columns were added to the portico. This work was carried out by means of money bequeathed by Miss Hall, who lived for many years in King Street, at the corner of Brown Street, and in whose back garden a rookery formerly existed, and who by her will left

£44,000 to local charities. In the same year the title was changed by the addition of the word "royal" consequent upon William IV. becoming a patron.

In 1847 another series of alterations were commenced, which ended in 1853, and resulted in the building being transformed to the appearance which it bears to-day. The first change was the building of the south wing, followed by the erection of the north wing, the rearrangement of the centre portion, and lastly by erection of the dome and clock. Towards the cost of erecting the north wing the Swedish nightingale, Jenny Lind, gave two concerts, which produced £3,000.

The Convalescent Hospital at Cheadle, connected with the Infirmary, was founded in 1866 by Robert Barnes, who purchased the land and left money for the erection of the hospital. After such a record of progress, it is not necessary to quote figures to show the growth of the work done within the walls of the institution. In its first year the Infirmary staff dealt with seventy-five indoor patients. When the first building at Piccadilly was opened beds were provided for forty; to-day the number of beds is three hundred. A few years hence, in its new location, it will still further extend its operations, and the present site will be devoted to public service of a very different but no less important nature.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

On a portion of the present Infirmary site there was erected in 1765 a lunatic asylum. Up to that time the

care of the unfortunate insane was almost entirely left to private enterprise, private mad houses flourishing in most parts of the country. The treatment of the poor victims was often cruel in the extreme, and public opinion demanded a change. Prior to 1765 there were only two public asylums in London and one in the provinces. The accommodation provided at Piccadilly comprised four cells or wards, together with rooms for the governor, the total cost being £1,500. So great were the demands made upon the management that successive extensions were made in 1772, 1780, and 1788, which resulted in the provision of accommodation for ninety more patients. In 1830 the front of the building was rebuilt in stone and a Doric portico added. Nine years later the governors were empowered by Act of Parliament to remove the asylum to a more suitable site. As a result a plot of land was purchased at Cheadle, and in November, 1847, the foundation stone of the Manchester Royal Lunatic Asylum was laid by Thomas Townsend, treasurer of the institution.

THE BATHS.

To most Manchester people the intimation that public baths stood at any time near to Piccadilly will come in the nature of news. It is so many years since they were removed that none but very old residents will remember them. Like the Infirmary, they dated back to the eighteenth century, having been built in 1781. The building was situated in the Infirmary grounds near to the gates at Mosley Street. In 1804 hot, tepid,

vapour, and cold baths were to be obtained. A series of elaborately detailed rules were observed by those using the baths, one of which stated that persons using them on Sundays must pay double the ordinary charge. The charges were rather high. A cold bath was charged ninepence, a Matlock bath one shilling and sixpence, a hot bath four shillings, a vapour bath six shillings, and a combined vapour and hot bath seven shillings and sixpence. In addition to this there was a graduated scale of charges for annual subscribers. Thus the subscriber of a guinea could obtain a hot bath for half a crown; if he added a half guinea to his subscription the charge dropped to two shillings; a further reduction being made to two guinea subscribers. In 1836 the annual profit was £200, which was added to the Infirmary funds, the baths being the property of the trustees. The prices were revised about the same time, the charge for a cold bath being raised to one shilling, and that of a hot bath being reduced to half a crown. A Harrogate bath could be indulged in on payment of four shillings, but a shampooing bath cost seven shillings. A sulphurous fumigating bath had been erected, and could be used for three shillings. Leeching and cupping were also performed when required. The gradual change in the character of the surrounding streets from that of a high-class residential district to a commercial one, together with the development of the practice of fitting up hot and cold water baths in private houses, had a disastrous effect upon the Piccadilly baths, and ultimately they were closed and the buildings pulled down.

PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART V.

EARLY VOLUNTEER MOVEMENTS.

A century ago volunteer enthusiasm was at its height, and on fine Sunday afternoons after attending divine service the corps was drawn up in front of the Infirmary pond and drilled. In our own days the same spot has served the purpose of a place of assembly. It is therefore quite in place to give here a brief résumé of volunteering a century ago. The first such movement dates back to 1777, when the outbreak of the American War was arousing popular feeling. A meeting of the principal inhabitants was called, and an address to the King was passed, wherein they declared themselves ready to support him with their lives and fortunes. A subscription list was opened, recruits were enrolled, and the Manchester Regiment was soon ready for service. Instead of being sent to America they were despatched to Gibraltar, where they fought with great bravery in the siege that preceded the capture of the stronghold. An interesting glimpse of those days is contained in a broadsheet, a copy of which has survived. It was issued in 1777, and is headed *Royal Manchester Volunteers*, and runs as follows :—" As a few recruits are wanted for the Royal

Manchester Volunteers, any young man of spirit may now have an opportunity of maintaining the Honour and Dignity of their King and Country, against the unnatural rebels and perfidious enemies of both in a regiment composed of the friends, brethren, and countrymen now lying at Gibraltar, the pleasantest and most healthy garrison in the King's dominions where, besides their pay, each man is allowed 7 lbs. bread, 5 lbs. beef or pork, 5 pints of peas, 5 pints of oatmeal, 6 oz. butter, and 6 oz. cheese weekly." The regiment returned to England in August, 1783, and were received in Manchester with great enthusiasm, each man receiving five shillings in addition to all arrears of pay. The colours were deposited in the Collegiate Church on September 9, and the regiment was disbanded. A full account of the siege of Gibraltar was published by Colonel Drinkwater. In 1779 Sir Thomas Egerton, afterwards Earl of Wilton, of Heaton Park, raised a regiment, four hundred strong, and called "The Royal Lancashire Volunteers." In the closing years of the century several other corps of Manchester volunteers were formed, some of which were incorporated with regiments of the line, but one body styled the "Loyal Association of Manchester and Salford" was intended for home defence only. In 1797 Manchester and Salford contributed largely, both in men and money, to the public service. In March the 1st and 2nd battalions of "The Manchester and Salford Volunteer Infantry" were drawn up for the first time, and the sum of £25,453 was raised to assist the Government. In 1798 Colonel Ackers formed

a regiment of Volunteers, and on February 14 they were drawn up in Piccadilly to receive their colours from Mrs. Hartley. On October 7, 1798, the news of the Battle of the Nile was received, and according to a broadside a copy of which survives, although the day was a Sunday, the Volunteers, together with the Boroughreeves and Constables of Manchester and Salford, and other leading townsmen, paraded the streets in procession to Piccadilly, where a feu-de-joie was fired. The French war closed with the treaty of Amiens in March, 1802 and the volunteer corps in all parts of the country were diesembodied. Colonel Ackers's corps was disbanded on March 10, their colours being deposited in the Collegiate Church. The 1st and 2nd battalions of the "Manchester and Salford Volunteers" were drawn up on Camp Field, the thanks of the House of Commons read to them, after which they were disbanded. On May 13 the Earl of Wilton's "Lancashire Volunteers" returned from Ireland, where they had been stationed for five years. They were entertained to dinner in the yard of Chetham Hospital, and separated after a march through the principal streets. The volunteer movement had rendered effective service, but the necessity for the maintenance seemed no longer to exist.

THE SECOND MOVEMENT.

How erroneous such an opinion was, was evident a few months later, when in May, 1803, Napoleon threatened to invade England, and commenced to make immense preparations at Boulogne. Once again, bodies

of volunteers were organized, and Manchester took its part in the great national movement. In the course of the year the following corps were raised in and near Manchester :—The Manchester Light Horse Volunteers (Colonel, Shakespear Phillips) ; Ackers's Volunteers (James Ackers, of Lark Hill) ; Sylvester Volunteers (John Sylvester) ; St. George's Corps (John Cross) ; Fourth Class Manchester and Salford Volunteers (George Philips) ; Hulme Volunteers (Major Pooley) ; Pendleton Volunteers (Captain Ablett) ; Trafford Volunteers (Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke) ; and the Loyal Masonic Volunteer Rifle Corps, at the head of whom was Colonel Joseph Hanson, of Strangeways Hall. The last-named gentleman, to whom more extended reference will be made in another connection, was presented at Court, and was commanded by the King to appear with his hat on and in the regimentals of the Manchester Rifle Regiment, which he commanded. The military spirit was once more abroad in the land, and James Harrop, launching a new local newspaper at the time, sought popular favour by naming it the British Volunteer. On Thursday, April 12, 1804, H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, commander of the North-Western District, accompanied by his son, Prince William of Gloucester, reviewed the volunteer corps at Manchester and the district at Sale Moor. The salute was fired by twenty-one guns belonging to the Earl of Wilton's corps of Volunteer Artillery, and in all some six thousand men took part in the review. The falling of a stand crowded with spectators caused the death of one person. The review is

described in Mrs. Banks' novel *The Manchester Man*. In September of the same year the volunteers met at Piccadilly and marched to Ardwick Green, where they were again reviewed by the Duke of Gloucester. A year later the local volunteers took part in the general rejoicings that followed the receipt of the news of the Battle of Trafalgar, and on December 5 attended a thanksgiving service at the Collegiate Church. After this the fear of invasion rapidly disappeared, and once again the volunteer corps were disbanded, and for half a century volunteers were an unknown quantity in Manchester life. The assemblies at Piccadilly usually attracted large crowds, and oftentimes criticisms, more pointed than polite, were indulged in by the onlookers of the extraordinary and grotesque movements of some of the sons of Mars. One of the officers, Adjutant Oakley, was on one occasion drilling his men, when the word to "ground arms" was given. All obeyed except one man, who after parade was duly reported. Asked by his captain why he did not ground arms when ordered to do so, replied, "Captain, are we not volunteers?" "Certainly we are." "Then, captain, having volunteered my services for the defence of my country, if required, I shall prepare by learning my discipline for that purpose; but, sir, having once taken up arms, I shall never learn to ground them, except compelled by death or conquest."

The story is told that Adjutant Oakley, who kept a public-house, was one night disturbed in his sleep by what he took to be loud and repeated calls of "Oakley." Springing out of bed, he threw open the window, only

to find that the call was the braying of a donkey under his window.

THE THIRD VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

In 1859 the country was again disturbed by a threat of invasion, and again volunteer corps were formed. A preliminary meeting was held at the instance of J. I. Mawson, afterwards Colonel Mawson, at the Star Hotel, Deansgate; and at a town's meeting held in the Town Hall, King Street, the movement received a further impetus. The greatest enthusiasm was displayed, ample funds were forthcoming, and as a result three Manchester and one Salford battalions were formed. On October 10, 1863, the first volunteer review in Heaton Park was held, and in 1867 a second one took place. From the earliest days of the movement rifle shooting has held a prominent place in the work done; the first prize for excellence being given by Mr. Simons, of Old Trafford, and was won by Private Andrew Walker, now of London. Amongst the many names associated with the movement from the first, few were more prominent and rendered more valuable services than Captain Hartshorne, who superintended the drilling of hundreds of raw recruits. It is worthy of note that in those days the Government did nothing to encourage the movement beyond giving permission for the formation of a force of men for the purpose of drill and discipline. They neither supplied instructors, drill halls, shooting ranges, uniforms, nor arms, each volunteer being compelled to equip himself, funds being raised to meet regimental expenses.

PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART VI.

A RETREAT FOR MEDICAL MEN.

In the days when our thoroughfare had become a fashionable residential district, and for many years afterwards, it was notable for the number of medical men who were to be found there. In the early forties fourteen surgeons and physicians were to be found in the length extending from Lever Street to Lees Street ; and if the adjoining streets were included the number was increased to twenty-five. As might be expected the majority of these gentlemen achieved nothing but a very local and short-lived reputation. Several, on the other hand, were leading members of their profession, and those may be noted here. Two doors past Lever Street was the residence of Robert Woodall who, commencing life as a druggist, took his degrees and afterwards practised as a surgeon.

JOHN WINDSOR, F.L.S.

Few Manchester men were more generally respected in their day than was John Windsor who began practice in a house that stood at the corner of Port Street in 1815, and, who after a busy life died in 1868 in his

eighty-second year, having occupied the same premises for more than half a century. A native of Settle, in Craven, he never lost touch with his native place, and published *Flora Cravoniensis*, an exhaustive and entirely reliable book. For half a century he was associated with the Eye Institution in the capacity of honorary consulting surgeon. One of his sons, W. T. Windsor, became a member of the City Council, and at the time of his resignation occupied a seat on the aldermanic bench.

DANIEL NOBLE, M.D.

Five of the houses standing between Booth Street and Lees Street (now Lena Street) were occupied by medical men. At No. 105 Dr. Noble commenced practice in 1834. Although he did not remain in Piccadilly as long as did Mr. Windsor, he also died in harness after a professional career extending over half a century. He rendered invaluable services to the city during the typhus epidemic of 1847, showing great energy in his untiring efforts to stop the spread of the fever. One of his principal literary efforts was a book dealing with the outbreak. His other works dealt with the human brain, one being devoted to its physiology, and another showing the relation of the mind with the brain and the nervous system. Dr. Noble died on January 12, 1885, a few days after completing his seventy-fifth year.

DR. JOHN MITCHELL.

A very different type of man was Dr. John Mitchell, who lived for some years two doors from the corner of

Chatham Street. Dr. Mitchell conducted an extensive practice, and rendered valuable services to the Infirmary. He was notable amongst his colleagues as a believer in the millennium, and in 1880 published a book with the title, *The First of the New Exposition of the Revelation of the Apostle John*. One of his friends was Dr. Hibbert Ware, the author of the *Foundations of Manchester*, who also became somewhat inoculated with Dr. Mitchell's millennium views. He at length formed the opinion that the great end was very close at hand. This opinion was tested in characteristic fashion by Joseph Jordan, the well-known surgeon, in the following manner :—

“ You believe that the millennium is within two or three years ? Tell me candidly ? ”

“ Certainly, I do.”

“ And then will come the thousand years' reign of the saints upon earth ? ”

“ Certainly.”

“ All things will be held in common by all men ; there will be no such thing as property, and that within the next two years.”

“ Most certainly.”

“ Then, Hibbert, I will give you, at this moment, five years' purchase of all your property.”

The offer was not accepted.

JAMES BRAID, M.R.C.S.

Two doors away from Dr. Mitchell resided another well-known medical man. James Braid, a native of Fife-shire, settled in Manchester about 1830, and rapidly

became distinguished for his skill in dealing with some of the more difficult and dangerous diseases. In the meantime his attention was drawn to animal magnetism, and in 1841 he entered upon a long and exhaustive study of the subject. When the British Association visited Manchester in 1842 he read a paper on certain discoveries he had made, and subsequently he published several works dealing with various branches of the subject. Hypnotism as a distinct branch of science was discovered by Mr. Braid, by whom it was designated neuro-hypnotism. His writings were much derided by mesmerists and others, but scientists in France and Germany took up the study and ultimately the curative qualities of hypnotism became generally recognized in various parts of the Continent. Mr. Braid's most important book was *Neurypnology, or the Rationale of Nervous Sleep considered in relation to Animal Magnetism*. Mr. Braid died on March 25, 1860. Leaving the Piccadilly doctors, we may now turn to their allies the druggists, five of whom carried on business in the thoroughfare.

SOME PICCADILLY DRUGGISTS.

Manchester people will remember the old-fashioned shop that formerly stood at the corner of Tib Street. With its two small windows and its entrance up several steps it was in striking contrast to the shop across the way, which to-day represents it. Nearly a century ago J. W. Gaultier, the son of a Wesleyan minister commenced business in the old shop, and in later years it was taken over by Thomas Standring who had previously

conducted business near to the Albion Hotel. As showing the enormous increase in land values in the city it may be noted that when the shop was sold about 1830 the price given was £3,500; whereas when the Corporation purchased it about twenty-five years ago they paid £22,500. Three doors past Gaultier's was the shop of Samuel Dean, with whom James Woolley, the founder of the great wholesale establishment, now situated at Victoria Bridge, served his apprenticeship. Just past Lever Street was the shop of Bowman and Law, and next door but one from Port Street, George Danson, a Quaker, conducted a business which survived for more than seventy years, and was only abandoned in recent years. Three doors from Booth Street, John Lessey, the son of another Wesleyan minister, carried on business for a number of years. One of his apprentices, William Scott Brown, in later years joined Henry Jewsbury, founding thereby the firm of Jewsbury and Brown. In those days Manchester chemists lived on the premises, and the lot of the apprentices was very different from that of their successors of to-day. The making of pills and plasters by machinery had not been introduced, and many of the most popular drugs of to-day were unknown.

A FORGOTTEN INDUSTRY.

Nearly opposite to Lessey's shop was the house of Frederick Ramsden, silk manufacturer and silk stock maker. Ramsden had commenced business in a small way in a shop in Deansgate, but trade developing he took a warehouse in the newly-made New Brown Street.

For many years he was the principal stock-maker in the town, and his representatives travelled over the North of England, and penetrated as far as the Midlands and Wales. In these days we can form a very slight conception of the old-fashioned method of incasing the neck in many folds of silk. A glance at some of the portraits of seventy years ago will illustrate the point. There were two methods of treatment. In some cases a deep stiff stock, resembling somewhat clerical collars, but standing up to the chin, was buckled round the neck. Over this was wrapped three or four folds of a large square scarf or neckerchief, folded cornerways and tied on a bow at the front. In other cases the neckerchief was folded round a deep stiffener, which when tied round the neck gave a similar appearance to that produced in the first case with the advantage of a little comfort to the wearer. The introduction of linen collars and small ties was strongly resisted by the members of the old brigade, but like the buckled shoes and the elaborately made shirt ruffles, with which stocks were contemporaneous, the last-named have passed away, and the new order ruleth in their stead.



PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART VII.

SOME WELL-KNOWN INNS.

"THE WHITE BEAR."

After Lever's Hall had ceased to serve the purpose of town house of the Lever family it appears to have been very considerably altered. The garden disappeared, a portion being probably built upon. In 1772 and 1773 John Travis occupied it, and seems to have carried on the business of an innkeeper, and in 1788 the tenant was Maria Travis. An advertisement issued in 1801 is our earliest reference to it as a coaching house. The broadside announced "The only coach from Manchester to London without changing. The London and Manchester commercial post coach sets off from the above inn every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, to the Golden Cross, Charing Cross, in thirty-six hours, being quicker than any except the mail coaches." It never became a leading coaching house, although for about thirty years one or more of the many short distance coaches started therefrom. It, however, attained a high place in popular favour as a house of entertainment during the régime of Ben Oldfield. Before entering upon the tenancy of the *White Bear*, Oldfield repre-

sented Pickford and Company, whose fly boats and van to London were well known many years prior to the advent of the railway. Oldfield was a humorist, and as a landlord drew to the *White Bear* many of the best known townsmen of his day. I have, in a previous chapter, given several specimens of his humour. Among his friends were Charles Swain, the poet, and Ben Hime, the founder of the present well known firm of pianoforte dealers who then carried on business at 20, St. Ann's Square. Practical joking and the perpetration of puns were as popular in the select circle referred to as they were in the days of Sheridan and Beau Brummell. Referring to Hime, Oldfield, on one occasion, introduced him to a friend as "This is Ben Hime, and I'm Ben." Oldfield was the composer of several songs which were set to music and enjoyed a large share of local popularity. The best known were "Old England," "Eccles Wakes," and "Manchester's Improving Daily," the music being composed by his friend, J. Townsend. He died on April 26, 1841; and in one notice published after his death we read, "Had he been possessed of the advantages of a good education and more refined society in early life, he would have left a name in literature."

THE MOSLEY HOTEL.

Prior to the widening of Market Street the *Mosley Arms Inn* and coach office stood a little lower down than the *Talbot*. The *Talbot* stood at the corner of West Mosley Street, and the site of both inns is now covered by portions of Lewis's establishment. When

in Market Street the Mosley was an important coaching house, Charles Scudamore running coaches to London daily. His announcement declared that the coaches performed the journey in twenty-nine hours, carried four inside, were well lighted, and guarded all the way. He also ran coaches to Birmingham, Liverpool, Carlisle, Leeds, Litchfield, York and Sheffield. When the old building was pulled down a move was made to Piccadilly, where a century ago Mrs. Podmore, the reigning beauty of the town, resided. In 1836 the *Mosley* was the centre of great interest and excitement. Madame Malibran de Beriot having been taken ill at the musical festival concert at the Theatre Royal was removed there and died on September 23. On the following Saturday the funeral took place at the Collegiate Church. In the procession were all the leading men of the town, the Boroughreeve (John Macvicar), acting as chief mourner. The carriages extended from the front of the hotel, along Piccadilly, and the entire length of Lever Street. Twelve years later a very different scene was enacted at the hotel, when Ernest Jones was arrested on a charge of sedition contained in a speech delivered at Bishop Bonner's Fields, London.

When Robert Wilson was landlord of the *Albion*, one of his chief patrons was the Earl of Derby, who made it his centre during his annual visit to the town. The Whit-Week races and the attendant cock-fighting displays were popular, and the Earl's carriage and four often passed down Market Street en route for the cockpit, near Greengate.

SOME FASHIONS PREVALENT IN 1835.

In few things have we changed more during the last seventy years than in the matter of dress. Joseph Kidson, of 37, Piccadilly, was a fashionable tailor, popular with his well-to-do neighbours. One of these has left us some interesting reminiscences. He says: "I remember quite well in the year 1835 being one of a wedding party, our clothes having been made at Kidson's, in Piccadilly, each of us being dressed alike, a claret swallow-tailed coat with black velvet collar, a yellow Valencia vest, and light grey trousers, the cost being £6 10s. Mr. Kidson recommended white satin waistcoats, which really at that time would not have been out of the way, and were indeed often worn in evening dress. Of course there were also stiff stocks round the neck of a gay colour, and high chimney-pot hats." Such a costume would indeed be a sight to see in Market Street now, but in 1835 would excite no notice. In those days, unless a man was in mourning, coat, vest, and trousers were all different, both in material and colour, and the tailor's bill was no doubt increased in consequence.

TWO WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS.

In the *Exchange Herald* for October, 1814, there appeared an announcement to the effect that Daniel Orme in compliance with the solicitations of his Manchester friends had come to reside amongst them. He hoped to paint portraits as usual, and on two days in each week to give instructions in drawing, etching, and

painting in oils. He also stated that he had the honour to be artist to His Majesty, George III. and the Prince Regent, and had painted some of the most distinguished heroes of the age. He settled at 40, Piccadilly. As will be gathered from the foregoing Orme in settling here was returning to where he was well known. He belonged to a Manchester family, having been born in one of the old mansions still standing in Quay Street. He resided for some time at Holles Street, Cavendish Square, London; but returned to Manchester as stated, and remained here until his death. His brother William also followed the calling of an artist, and both exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1797. William painted many pictures of Lancashire scenery. Two of these, a view of Ashton-under-Lyne, and a view in Cheshire, were exhibited in 1798, a view of Collyhurst in 1800, and one of Hawes Water, Westmorland, in 1819. His view of Hunt's Bank, Manchester, in 1797, is well known, having been often reproduced. It is one of the illustrations to Procter's Memorials of Bygone Manchester. William Orme resided in 1794 in Ardwick, and gave lessons in drawing and painting to the sons and daughters of the well-to-do people who lived in the large houses scattered over that charming rural retreat. An interesting etching by Daniel Orme is to be found in the Greaves' collection. It is a portrait of Peter Manchester, taken in 1815. The background represents the buildings that stood at the corner of High Street and Cannon Street. On the buildings we see the signs of Boyd and Occleston. William Boyd was a cotton manufacturer, who resided at

7, Piccadilly, and James Occleston was a manufacturer of gingham.

WRIGHT BOWDEN.

A very different type of man from the Ormes was Wright Bowden, whose fame as a singer and actor was known throughout the country a century ago. The son of an innkeeper (his father kept the *Unicorn* in Old Smithy Door in 1773), he soon showed unmistakable histrionic ability and made his way to London. There he attracted the attention of the celebrated Madame Mara, and made his first London appearance in *Robin Hood* at the Old Covent Garden Theatre. Michael Kelly, who was present, says: "He was received with great applause, his voice was good, and he sang with taste." Mrs. Billington was in the caste, and she joined in the universal congratulations that were showered upon the new actor. After a successful season in London, Bowden visited many of the provincial towns, where he rapidly became a favourite. He appeared on our Manchester stage several times, the first occasion being in 1788. Two years later he was here again playing Macheath, Ferdinand, and other characters. After a successful career he retired from the stage, and returning to Manchester took up his residence at a boarding house that stood in Piccadilly, near to Port Street. He died there on April 16, 1823, in his 71st year, and was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard Parsonage.

PICCADILLY MEMORIALS.

PART VIII.

SOME MUSICAL REMINISCENCES.

In a house that stood near to the corner of Port Street, James Bennett lived and gave music lessons. As a boy he sang in the Collegiate Church Choir, and took lessons on the pianoforte from William Sudlow, organist of the church, who lived in Hanging Ditch. After taking lessons on the organ, he was appointed organist at the Unitarian Chapel, that formerly stood where Nicoll's tailoring establishment is in Mosley Street. The organ had been originally built for the Gentlemen's Concert Room, and had been sold to make place for a larger instrument. In those days only two hymn-tune books were in general use in Manchester, the more popular being Harrison's Psalmody. This was the collection in use at Mosley Street. The compiler was one of the ministers at Cross Street Chapel. The Rev. Ralph Harrison included in his collection a number of tunes by the Wainwrights, and several of his own composition.

One of the latter, still well known, was called "Warrington" after the Academy wherein he had received his training. This tune was exceedingly popular, and on one occasion a stranger called upon the composer.

On seeing the minister he said, "Are yo Mestur Harrison?" Receiving an affirmative reply, he exclaimed, "Hey! I am glad to see the man that composed Warrington"; and then went on to say how many miles he had walked in order to enjoy the pleasure. Bennett did not confine his attention to organ playing. Possessed of a fine tenor voice he was regarded as one of the finest vocalists in the North of England. Removing to London he became professor of singing at the Royal Academy of Music, and a gentleman of the Chapel Royal. He published in 1843 *A Practical Introduction to Part and Sight Singing*, and a volume of exercises for the cultivation of the voice. He was the first producer of Rossini's Stabat Mater. He died at Brighton on June 10, 1870.

A WELL-KNOWN BAKER.

Amongst the tradesmen who made fortunes in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly in the earlier decades of the last century, none were better known than Thomas Ashton, who carried on business at No. 3, Piccadilly. He had previously been in business in High Street, but as private residences became converted into places of business he removed. The quality of his bread was such that although he charged a higher price than any other baker in town, he enjoyed the monopoly of the better-class trade. His son Thomas studied medicine, and graduated at Leyden in 1832. In 1841 he became L.R.C.P., and subsequently took his M.D. degree. He commenced practice in Mosley Street, and became rapidly

popular. At one time he enjoyed one of the largest and best practices in the town, but retired in middle life. He was the author of *Visits to the Museum of Natural History Society*; and *Sabbath and the Sunday*. He died at Norwood, Altrincham, on December 15, 1883.

AN OLD RESIDENT.

Few cases in town life will compare in one respect with that of James Bloor, who carried on the business of a pawnbroker in one of two houses that stood opposite the end of Portland Street. He was born in the house, and resided in it until his retirement to Southport at the age of seventy-two. Another resident of Piccadilly was John Ivan Mosley who was born there in 1830. His parents were in comfortable circumstances. He was educated at Mr. Pownall's school, Hulme, and afterwards, until he was fifteen years old, at the Rev. — Davis' school, also in Hulme. He was the son of Daniel Mosley, who was cousin to Sir Oswald Mosley, of Rolleston Hall, Staffordshire, and the said Daniel Mosley came to Manchester about ninety years ago, and was well known sixty or seventy years ago by the Methodists as a vigorous local preacher. John Mosley was a linguist knowing many languages—nineteen or twenty at least. It was when learning Russian, I think, that he called himself Ivan instead of John, for an obvious reason. He chose as a trade wood-turning, and was clever at that, but through his love for languages he neglected the business and taught German, French, and Spanish. He went to Wales when seventeen years old,

learnt the language and spoke it fluently in a short time and won prizes at the Eisteddfods as a poet in the Welsh language. He went to the Isle of Man, learnt the Manx language, and compiled a Manx dictionary, in which the Rev. Mr. Gill, of St. Margaret's Church, Whalley Range, gave material help. This dictionary, after many difficulties was published by John Heywood, John Mosley having to complete the compositor's work. He was in fact a genius, and as is the fate of his kind died without leaving much wealth, but leaving a widow and four well-educated children.

A well-known character in the local police courts in the thirties was John Law, or as he was generally known Jack Law. When the century opened he was in practice in St. Ann's Churchyard, but removed afterwards to 25, Piccadilly. He was very successful as a cross-examiner, and many stories are recorded about his success in dealing with witnesses whose evidence was at variance with the truth. On one occasion he produced a letter and asked the witness who had written it. "My brother," was the reply. "And it is just as true that your brother wrote that letter as are the other matters you have just sworn; the one is as true as the other?" "Yes." Later on he asked, "Now, did not a man called H. P. write that letter?" "Yes." Mr. Law's opponent was generally Mr. Edward Foulkes, and many were the combats in which the pair engaged.

A MANCHESTER HIGHWAYMAN.

William Occleshaw, who was a manufacturer of patent

pipes and a dealer in plumbers' goods, carried on business many years at 121, Piccadilly, and lived at 11, Plymouth Grove. One day as Mr. Occleshaw was turning the corner of Nelson Street and Plymouth Grove on his way home, he was stopped by Gahagan, a notorious character who demanded the surrender of money and other valuables that he might have in his possession. Although it was early in the afternoon, so quiet was the spot that Mr. Occleshaw complied. His only jewellery was an old family silver watch not worth twenty shillings, and the highwayman expressed surprise that any gentleman should carry such a turnip.

Gahagan, who, for a time, lived in a low-class lodging-house off London Road, was often seen on the less frequented thoroughfares seventy years ago, and perpetrated many daring crimes. On one occasion, just after Stretford Road was opened, he and a companion met a lady and a gentleman, a few yards from Jackson's Lane. Stopping them Gahagan, apologising for his intrusion, demanded the surrender of valuables. The demand not being acceded to, a dagger was produced, when the lady gave up her purse containing £2 10s., with a request that the purse should be returned. The request was complied with, with the remark "empty purses are of no use to us." The gentleman had only a few shillings, and requested the thieves to examine his pockets, which they declined to do, saying that they would take his word for it, and that they were not common pick-pockets. A pocket book was also returned unexamined, when the victim assured the assailants that it only con-

tained private memoranda. When the lady remarked that so dangerous an occupation must result in ultimate capture they exhibited the butt ends of a brace of pistols, besides daggers, and laughed at the idea of capture. Taking their hats off and making a profound bow they turned down Jackson's Lane and disappeared.

WESTHEAD'S.

For many years few firms enjoyed a greater share of public respect than did this well-known Piccadilly house. Like many another home house they fell upon evil days, and to-day the name is a memory only whilst another firm occupy the well-known premises. The concern was commenced by Edward Westhead and James Wood, whose warehouse in the earlier decades of the last century was in High Street, numbered originally 54, but changed afterwards to 28. The partners were leading Wesleyans. Mr. Wood's son Peter, who became one of the physicians to the Infirmary, but afterwards retired to Southport, followed on the same lines, and rendered innumerable valuable services to Methodism. Edward Westhead had two sons, J. P. Westhead, who was born in Faulkner Street in 1807, and Edward, born in George Street in 1810. Both became partners in the firm, and the elder son took a leading part in public matters. He was a promoter of the early railways, and in 1847 for his services, was presented with a service of plate costing £2,400 by the shareholders of the Manchester and Birmingham Railway. He inherited the Lea Castle estates in Warwickshire from his uncle, Captain Brown

(whose name he assumed), and removed thither in 1846. In 1847 he was elected Liberal M.P. for Knaresborough, but resigned in 1850, when he, along with two other candidates, obtained the same number of votes. He was afterwards M.P. for York, became vice-chairman of the L. and N.W. Railway Co., and died in 1877. His eldest son distinguished himself in the Crimean War. Edward Westhead, like his father, was a generous contributor to Wesleyan Methodist funds, and held high office at the Grosvenor Street, and Oxford Road Chapels. He died in 1884. Westhead's mills were in Brook Street, and both warehouse and mills were in turn the scene of great conflagrations.



OLDHAM STREET.

PART I.

Prior to 1772 Oldham Street as a public thoroughfare was unknown. There seems to have existed for some few years a private road or footpath leading from the corner of Ancoats Lane to the daub-holes. In 1772 a further move was made, and an advertisement published on November 26, ran thus: "At a town's meeting, held at Fletcher's Tavern, a proposal was made to give up to the use of the public a new road called Oldham Street, leading betwixt the top of Market Street Lane and the Ancoats Lane, in the way to the towns of Oldham and Ashton-under-Lyne; that this township will take upon itself the repairs thereof." The only innkeeper in the town of the name of Fletcher was James Fletcher, who kept the *Three Tuns* in Long Millgate. The street name was derived from Adam Oldham, who lived in a large house standing on the site of the present Albion Hotel. He was a constable of the town in 1774-5, and made a large fortune in business. As a Wesleyan Methodist and a member of the Birch Lane congregation he probably had much to do with the selection of the site for the first important building erected in the street.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

John Wesley was a frequent visitor to Manchester, and a few of the opinions expressed by him on such occasions have been recorded. One of these had reference to the training of children. After taking tea at Mr. Oldham's house, he said in his diary: "But how I am shocked. The children that used to cling about me and drink in every word had been to a boarding school. There they had unlearned all religion, and even seriousness, and had learned pride, vanity, affectation, and whatever could guard them against themselves and the love of God. Methodist parents, who would send their children to hell, send them to a fashionable boarding school." That was in 1772; and a few years later the Wesleyans were looking for a site for a large chapel. In 1776 John Spears and David Richardson purchased a piece of land in the new street from Sir Ashton Lever at a chief rent of £22 18s. 2d. In one corner of the field was a pit which formed a popular resort for boys, on account of the number of jacksharps it contained. In 1779 the land was transferred to William Brocklehurst, cotton merchant, of Norfolk Street, and building operations commenced. Many will remember the old building with its gable end towards the street, and the roof ornamented with a series of battlement-like parapets.

THE OPENING.

In Harrop's newspaper for March 27, 1781, appeared the following announcement:—"The Rev. John Wes-

ley, M.A., will be in town on Friday next, and will open the large new meeting-house in Oldham Street. The service will begin at six o'clock in the evening." Wesley in his journal says: "After preaching at Congleton, Macclesfield, and Stockport, in my way, on Friday (30) I opened the new chapel at Manchester, about the size of that in London. The whole congregation behaved with the utmost seriousness. I trust much good will be done in the place." This entry for Good Friday was followed by one for Easter Sunday, in which he says: "I began reading prayers at ten o'clock. Our country friends flocked in from all sides. At the communion was such a sight as I am persuaded was never seen in Manchester before—eleven or twelve hundred communicants at one, and all of them fearing God." The first travelling preachers connected with the new chapel were John Valton, John Allen, and Alexander M'Nab, followed in 1782 by John Allen, Jonathan Hein, and Jeremiah Brettall. Of Valton as the first superintendent something should be said. His parents were French people belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, the father having come to England as a page to George II. Valton was originally trained in the faith of his parents, but going to a Yorkshire Grammar School he attended the Established Church, and at the age of thirteen was confirmed by the Bishop of Chester. After holding a clerkship in the Ordnance Office at Portsmouth, he was admitted on trial as a preacher in the Methodist body in 1775, and five years later was stationed at Manchester. He died at the early age of



OLDHAM STREET WESLEYAN CHAPEL,
As it appeared in 1807.

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fifty-four, his biography being written by the Rev. Thomas Jackson.

SOME NOTABLE INCIDENTS.

Soon after the chapel was opened Mr. Wesley again visited Manchester, and a devout mother living in Newton Lane brought her boy to the chapel in order that he might receive the blessing of the great preacher. About twenty years later, that boy, grown to man's estate, stood with twenty-eight others round the front of the gallery of the same chapel, to be admitted into full connexion with the conference as a preacher. His name was Jabez Bunting, one of the finest preachers that ever filled a pulpit; and one of his colleagues was Robert Newton. Samuel Bradburn was stationed here in 1789 and in 1799, and in the latter year was elected President of the Conference that met at Oldham Street. It may here be noted that the Conference met in the same building in 1787, 1791 (the first after Wesley's death), 1795, 1799, 1803, 1809, 1815, 1821, 1827, 1833 (when the question of day schools and education was introduced), 1841 (when Didsbury College was originated and a book entitled *Wesleyan Takings* was strongly condemned), 1849 (when an inquiry took place respecting the authorship of the fly sheets, and when Daniel Walton was admonished, and Samuel Dunn, William Griffiths, and James Everett were expelled), 1859 and 1871.

DR. ADAM CLARKE.

It is doubtful whether any of the great names associated with Oldham Street were more deservedly popular than was that of Adam Clarke. A few lines respecting him and his work will, therefore, not be out of place here. Born in an obscure village in Londonderry in 1760, his early years were passed in poverty. At the age of eight he learned the alphabet, but his progress was so slow that he often felt that he should not be able to proceed far. His father was of the same opinion. As years passed on he rapidly improved, and developed a passion for the highest branches of literature. When eighteen years old, he attended a Methodist service, and soon joined the society. He showed great enthusiasm for the work, and in 1782 he entered Kingswood School, where he attracted the attention of Wesley. He was stationed in Manchester in 1791, and was in residence at the ministers' house that stood in Spear Street when he heard of Wesley's death. He wrote on a window pane in the house by means of a diamond his testimony to the value of his great leader's labours. The piece of glass still survives. Clarke was here again in 1803-4, during which period he published his *Bibliographical Dictionary*, and formed a Philological Society. His last appearance in Manchester was in April, 1830, and on August 26, 1832, he died, being buried in the graveyard attached to the City Road Chapel, London. In literature Clarke is best known as the author of

A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, one of the best books of its kind ever written.

SOME OTHER NOTABLE PREACHERS.

Space prevents more than a summary of some of the great preachers who occupied the Oldham Street pulpit. They included Thomas and Samuel Jackson, Robert Newton, Jabez Bunting, Samuel Warren, James Wood, Dr. Hannah, John Rigg, John Bedford, Joseph Taylor, G. T. Perks, Alexander M'Aulay, James Dixon, and Samuel R. Hall. The final services were held on Thursday, February 1, 1883, when Dr. Pope, theological tutor at Didsbury College, preached in the morning, and the Rev. Charles Garrett, President of the Conference, in the evening. After the evening service about 2,000 persons partook of the Sacrament. The scene when Mr. Garrett preached was an impressive one. The building was crowded to the doors, the pulpit stairs and the pulpit itself being called into service. The singing was unusually hearty even for Wesleyans, the old tunes selected by Mr. Walker, who had presided at the organ for nearly forty years, appealing to every one. Soon afterwards the work of destruction was commenced, and the building that had stood for over a century was removed to make way for a more modern structure intended to meet the requirements of a new generation. How splendidly the Central Hall Mission has justified its existence is too well known to need any comment on or defence of the policy of 1883.

OLDHAM STREET.

PART II.

AN EARLY RESIDENT.

In 1788 Ottiwell Wood, fustian manufacturer, a well-known member of the congregation attending Cross Street Chapel, resided in Oldham Street. For over a century and a half the Wood family were connected with the old chapel, and Ottiwell Wood was for many years one of the trustees. The name Ottiwell appears to have been a family one, for in the chapel and graveyard are buried no fewer than five representatives of different generations who bore it. The one under notice was somewhat of a humorist, as the following story will show. Being a witness in an Assize trial, and knowing the exceptional character of his name, when asked the usual question replied sharply, "Ottiwell Wood." "Hotwell Wood?" queried the judge. "No, my lord, Ottiwell Wood." "How do you spell it?" sternly asked his lordship. The witness replied rapidly, "O double T I double U E double I, double U double O D." The repetition of such a succession of doubles without a pause for breath did not help the judge. He seemed to think the witness was poking fun at him, and peremptorily ordered Mr. Wood

to write his name. Mr. Wood died at Liverpool, March 4, 1847, aged eighty-seven years. His son John took a leading part in the struggle for Parliamentary reform ; and in the agitation that preceded the passing of the Reform Act of 1832 he showed such marked ability that the Manchester Reformers chose him as one of their champions, and although they could not return him to Parliament, they brought such influence to bear that he was returned M.P. for Preston in 1826. Some idea of the electioneering of those days may be gathered from the fact that the election extended over six days, and that the four candidates spent in all some £30,000. In 1830 he was appointed Recorder of York ; and after occupying a seat in the Reformed Parliament for many years he was appointed chairman of the Inland Revenue Department, an office worth £2,000 a year, which position he held until his death.

RYLEY, THE ITINERANT.

A very different character was Samuel William Ryley, who from 1790 to 1793 occupied the *Angel Tavern* in Oldham Street. The story of his interesting career is told in nine volumes, published in three series in 1808, 1816, and 1829 respectively. As a youth he had served an apprenticeship to a Saddleworth woollen manufacturer, who carried on business as John Kenworthy and Co. Whilst in residence with his employer, the latter's daughter returned home, and soon fascinated him. The romantic youth eloped with the boarding-school

miss to Gretna Green, where the knot was tied by the blacksmith, whose fee was six and a half guineas. Leaving trade, Ryley went on the dramatic stage in 1787 his salary being nine shillings per week. He first appeared in Manchester at the Theatre Royal, Spring Gardens, in the same year playing Lord Ogleby to his wife's Fanny. For forty years he itinerated through the country, making many visits to our town. At various times he appeared at the theatre, the circus, the lecture hall, and the concert room, playing in his time many parts. For a short interval he tried the experiment of keeping a tavern, but in the autumn of 1793 he was once again on the move, leaving his property at the *Angel* to his creditors. Whilst living there he became a constant attendant at the Oldham Street Chapel, but afterwards became a convert to the teachings of Swedenborg. When he resumed connexion with the stage he made his second début at our local theatre, appearing at four performances, and making a profit of twenty pounds, with which he recommenced the battle of life. A tour of the Lancashire towns was a financial failure, but learning that living was cheap in the Isle of Man, he decided on trying the experiment. The voyage to Douglas occupied two and a half days, and was attended by great discomfort. At Douglas he opened a small bookshop, but was soon back again in Manchester, where he once again tried the boards. This was followed by a successful season as manager of the Liverpool Theatre, which was, as usual, followed by a series of disasters, and ended in his creditors tak-

ing possession of his belongings. Occasional lectures and appearances on the stage, together with the financial success of the publication of the first series of his *Itinerary*, once again put him on his feet, and in 1808 he went to London, where he stayed nearly a year, playing under Thomas Dibdin at old Drury Lane. His last performance there was as Sir Peter Teazle, and three nights afterwards he saw the theatre burnt down. Working his way back to Lancashire by giving occasional performances *en route*, he again tried theatrical management at Buxton and Chester, and early in 1810 he appeared at Manchester in an adaptation of Tim Bobbin's "Tummas and Meary." Disaster again overtook him, and for a time he was confined in Chester Castle for debt. After his release he lectured in various Lancashire towns, but in 1814 experienced his crowning misfortune whilst managing the Spring Gardens theatre, which he conducted as the "Amphitheatre." Although he provided a very good bill of fare, and did all he could to deserve success, he lost three hundred pounds, and was pleased afterwards to play minor parts on the stage of the Theatre Royal. Until his death he experienced a continued succession of failures, relieved at intervals by brief periods of success. In addition to the story of his eventful career previously referred to, he wrote several plays and a number of verses for use on the stage. He died in 1837 at Parkgate, poverty being his companion to the end.

THE OLDHAM STREET CIRCUS.

For about twelve months the residents of Oldham Street had a circus in their midst, and although its career was short, it was particularly interesting, inasmuch as with it was associated the greatest equestrian of the day. Philip Astley, although born in Newcastle, had a number of relations in Manchester. In early life he joined the army, becoming a member of General Eliot's Light Horse, in which capacity he not only served in the German wars, but made his first experiments in horsemanship. When he obtained his discharge, General Eliot presented him with a fine charger, which lived to the age of forty-two. Having made a study of horsemanship, he began business as an entertainer, and visited in turn most of the largest towns. He first visited Manchester at Easter, 1773, staying for ten days. Fourteen years later his company, very much improved, appeared at a riding school that formerly stood in Tib Street, near the corner of Oldham Street. In April, 1793, a new circus was opened in Oldham Street, and for five weeks Astley's company entertained the townspeople with astounding feats of horsemanship, tumbling, and vaulting. The circus does not appear to have been an all-round success, and a year later, after a series of ten performances by Astley's company, the place was pulled down. After his death in 1804 Philip Astley was succeeded by his son, who did not long survive him.

Early in the last century the Methodist New Con-

nexion people opened a small chapel in Oldham Street. It stood a little distance higher up the street, and on the same side as the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and only survived for a few years.

RIOTING AND BALLAD SINGING.

Before mentioning the names of some well-known residents it will be as well to refer to two incidents in the history of the street. The winter of 1795-6 was marked by great distress and discontent among the working classes. War was raging on the Continent, food was scarce and dear, and little work was to be got. That most dreaded companion of hunger and misery, fever, made its appearance, and as winter gave place to summer matters got worse until on July 31 the magistrates ordered that all the public houses should be closed at seven in the evening, and that all persons appearing in the streets after nine o'clock should be required to give an account of themselves. Rioting commenced, and at New Cross several carts loaded with meal going to market were stopped by a large crowd, and the contents divided out. The appearance of mounted soldiers prevented what would probably have been a very serious rising. History repeated itself in 1812, when food riots again took place, and on April 20 a cart was stopped at New Cross and fourteen sacks of meal distributed by a crowd of hungry men and women. The shopkeepers of Oldham Street closed their shops, but quiet was not restored until the Riot Act was read and the cavalry marched down the street.

In 1819 the inhabitants of the street petitioned the magistrates, complaining of "profane and debauched ballad singing by men and women," and the nuisance was abated. Ballad printing, selling, and singing was an interesting feature of town life during the greater part of the last century, and will be dealt with on some future occasion.



OLDHAM STREET.

PART III.

SOME WELL-KNOWN RESIDENTS.

MRS. ISABELLA BANKS.

Amongst the many persons born in Oldham Street during the last century none achieved a greater fame than did Isabella Varley, the daughter of a smallware dealer. James Varley, whose father was a chemical manufacturer, and the original maker of cream of tartar and chloride of lime, succeeded to the drysaltery business of Robert Bracken, and carried on business in Marriott's Court. In middle life he lost an eye after an illness. During this period the business was so neglected by those left in charge that Mrs. Varley, who had started the Oldham Street business, was compelled to put an end to the drysaltery concern, and to rely upon her own business to keep the family going. As was then the custom, the family lived on the premises, and on March 25, 1821, Isabella Varley was born at 10, Oldham Street. She obtained her education at the school kept by Mr. Rain in the same street, and soon showed signs of having inherited some of the ability previously possessed by her grandfather, James Varley,

who was a man of great literary ability, and was proficient in fourteen languages. Her first publication was a small volume of poems under the title of *Ivy Leaves*, which appeared in 1843. In 1845 she was married to George Linnæus Banks, a journalist, editor and public lecturer, and in addition to her household duties she assisted her husband from time to time with productions from her pen. Just forty years ago her first novel was published by Messrs. Bentley and Son, *God's Providence House*, a tale of old Chester, and it showed that a new addition had been made to the list of contemporary novelists. That the reading public had judged aright was evident when her second novel made its appearance in serial form in the pages of *Cassell's Magazine*. In 1876 *The Manchester Man* was published in the then popular three volume form, and was eagerly read. To Manchester people it was particularly welcome. The picture of life in the town in the early part of the nineteenth century, the description of Peterloo, and the lifelike sketch of that eccentric worthy, Joshua Brookes, endeared the book to Manchester people, and prompted in the minds of many an interest in the history of our town, its streets, institutions, and former residents. Other novels and short stories followed, the best of which is perhaps the one with the title, *More than Coronets*. After her marriage Mrs. Banks was only an occasional visitor to Manchester, living principally in London. Her interest in her native city never abated, and from time to time interesting reminiscences of her early days appeared in the

columns of the *City News*. Her latter days were overclouded by misfortune, but in 1895 a fund was raised to assist her in her old age, and this, together with a small grant from the Royal Bounty Fund, did much to brighten the closing years of her life. In 1896 a beautifully illustrated edition of *The Manchester Man* was issued ; and on May 4 of the following year the popular novelist died, in her seventy-seventh year.

A WELL-KNOWN SCHOOLMASTER.

For several generations few residents in the street were better known than was Thomas Rain, whose school stood next door to the Methodist Chapel. It was numbered for many years 101, but when the buildings were renumbered seventy years ago it became number 16. The difference arose from the fact that originally the buildings on the left-hand side were numbered successively, and not alternately, as now ; and at the top of the street the numbering was continued down the other side. In consulting old directories it is well to bear this fact in mind. Thomas Rain, the founder of the school referred to, was born in the neighbourhood, for we have it on record that as a boy he was wont " to fish for askers with a straw " in a pit that stood where the Central Hall stands. As a schoolmaster he belonged to the old type who placed handwriting at the head of the list of subjects to be taught. He devoted special attention to it, and it is said that he turned out a greater proportion of good penmen than any other master in the town. He believed in corporal

punishment, and many a scholar has retired from an interview with him bearing a smarting palm. In the long low room many future citizens received that commercial training for which Rain was noted, and which undoubtedly served them in good stead. In that room Isabella Varley received her education, and on more than one occasion in later life she referred in kindly manner to her old schoolmaster. It may be noted that the education given was entirely free from religious training. If any of my readers received their education at the school I should be obliged if they will send me their reminiscences.

Another early resident was Charles Calvert, who acted as steward for the Duke of Norfolk's Glossop estate. The Calvert family had an aristocratic lineage, claiming relationship with the Lords Baltimore, whose title was created by James I. in 1624. Charles Calvert was a man of refined tastes, and built for himself a house in Oldham Street when that thoroughfare was bounded in part of its length by fields. He had eight children, all of whom were baptized at the Rook Street Roman Catholic Chapel. George Calvert was the seventh child. He only lived to be thirty years of age, but he distinguished himself as a surgeon, and was the author of several volumes that were of high repute amongst medical men eighty years ago. So far as can be traced the last member of the family to occupy the house in Oldham Street was M. P. Calvert, who was a teacher of drawing and painting

JAMES WILKINSON.

I wonder whether any one living remembers the band that seventy years ago took the place of the more modern organ in the Wesleyan Chapel. The numbers were small, rarely exceeding half a dozen players. They always included two violoncellos, a double bass, and a bass horn. For many years my grandfather played one of the first-named instruments, and many times he has spoken of the hearty singing heard in the old building. In those days books were dear, and very many people could not read. It was therefore usual in Methodist chapels, as they were then called, for the minister to read out the hymns two lines at a time, except in cases where a well-known hymn was to be sung, when an entire verse would be read. The leading singer at Oldham Street for forty years was James Wilkinson, who possessed a very fine voice. He kept a music shop in Oldham Street. It stood nearly opposite to the chapel, and was next door to Varley's shop. The Wilkinsons were a musical family, William (the son of James) being a teacher of music, and Gregory, a grandson, being an accomplished violinist, and one of the early members of the Halle orchestra. Seventy years ago it was customary for the children attending the Wesleyan schools to perambulate the streets on Whit-Wednesday, and to make their way to Ardwick Green. When the assemblage was complete several hymns were sung, James Wilkinson conducting the singing, which was led by Peter Duckers, who was an able performer on the trumpet.

Included amongst Wilkinson's neighbours were William Pollard, who conducted a tailoring business at No. 21, and was one of the earliest teetotallers in the city; Alexander Braik, the predecessor of John Berrie, dyer, and Robert Bennett, solicitor, who occupied rooms at No. 42. The last-named was a specimen of the type of old English gentlemen, of which James Crossley was another example. For some years he resided at Gorton Hall, and endeavoured to organize a series of race meetings on a course that he had laid out there. The venture was not a success, and was abandoned after a year's trial. Mr. Bennett lived to a good old age, dying some years ago at Wellington Terrace, Heaton Chapel. To the last he wore the stock, frilled shirt, and blue-coat reminiscent of a bygone generation. At No. 23 Jonathan Lees, smallware dealer, carried on business. He was an active worker at Roby's Chapel, and on several occasions occupied the pulpit in the absence of Mr. Roby. Along with several others he was instrumental in commencing the Independent congregations at New Windsor, Jackson's Lane (now Zion Chapel, Stretford Road), and Rusholme Road. A few doors higher up the street Robert Thorpe practised as a surgeon. He had one of the largest connexions in the city, and acted as consulting surgeon to the Infirmary. His father was also a surgeon who had in the closing years of the previous century commenced practice in a house standing in Cock Gates, Withy Grove—hardly a quarter of which one would expect to find a successful medical man in our days

OLDHAM STREET.

PART IV.

SOME WELL-KNOWN RESIDENTS.

ABEL HEYWOOD.

Few men in Manchester have better earned the gratitude of their fellow-men than did Abel Heywood. He started life under very discouraging circumstances. His father died whilst he was a mere child, and the widow was left to face the world with a family to keep and bring up. Young Abel found employment in a High Street warehouse, at a wage of eighteen pence a week. In 1832 he commenced business as a newsagent in Oldham Street, and holding very advanced political views became an agent for the sale of the *Poor Man's Guardian*. This paper, which advocated the claims of the working classes, was a small eight-paged sheet. In defiance of the taxes on knowledge it bore no Government stamp, in place of the stamp being printed a representation of a printing press with the words "Knowledge is power." For this infraction of the law Heywood was prosecuted and fined. Refusing to pay the fine, he was imprisoned for four months in the New Bailey prison; and on three subsequent occasions was fined for the repetition of the offence. In this he shared the

fate of seven hundred and fifty persons, who contended that newspapers should be freed from all Government taxation. One of the number, Henry Hetherington, appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench and then obtained a judicial declaration that the *Poor Man's Guardian* was not a newspaper within the meaning of the Act. In 1836 the newspaper tax was reduced from fourpence to one penny, but a newspaper bearing that stamp could be posted free for three months after date of issue, and that for an indefinite number of times. Papers like the *Illustrated London News* were thereby sent free from one friend to another until they had completed long circuits. The Oldham Street business prospered, but in 1840 Heywood was again in trouble, this time for selling a penny pamphlet which was reputed to contain an irreverent sentence. Mr. Heywood purchased copies of the works of a popular poet, which he contended contained passages more impious than those complained of. If, therefore, he was liable to punishment, so would also be the other booksellers. A grand jury found him guilty, at the same time admitting the justice of the defendant's contention. The punishment of two years' imprisonment was therefore never inflicted.

Mr. Heywood's services to the city were extremely valuable and extended over a long period of years. In 1836 he was appointed a Commissioner of Police, and took an active part in the proceedings that led up to the incorporation of the borough. He was elected councillor for Collegiate Ward in 1843, and ten years

later was appointed alderman. For nearly fifty years he acted as chairman of the Highways Committee. In 1862 he was appointed to the position of mayor, an honour which was again conferred upon him in 1876. During the later term of office the Town Hall was opened, and when it was found impossible to prevail upon the late Queen to perform the opening ceremony Mr. Heywood was appointed to perform the function. One feature of the celebration was the great trades procession, which was regarded as a great tribute by the workers of the city to the real worth of Alderman Heywood. In 1888 his record of fifty years' public service was recognized by a complimentary dinner at the Town Hall, and on November 27, 1891, the freedom of the city was conferred upon him. He died on August 19, 1893.

Many publications have been issued by the firm of Abel Heywood and Son, including *The Lancashire Beacon*, edited by Charles Southwell, commenced in 1849; *Ben Brierley's Journal*, and the *Manchester Spectator* (1857 to 1860). Several other publications have been issued from other addresses in Oldham Street, the most notable of which was *Momus*, which ran from March 7, 1878, to October 5, 1882. The journal was illustrated, and in this respect will be long remembered for the admirable work of W. G. Baxter, whose sketches of well-known local men are still full of interest. Baxter afterwards joined the staff of *Ally Sloper*, but a promising career was closed in 1888, when he fell a victim to consumption at the early age of thirty-two.

A LADY CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

For more than half a century the name Thorpe appeared over a druggist's shop in Oldham Street. In 1794 Ann Thorpe carried on business in a black and white half-timbered house numbered under the old system as 47. She had a son, Issachar, who after acquiring a knowledge of the trade left it, and obtained employment with a calico printer in Fountain Street. On the death of his mother he left calico printing, and in 1821 removed to the shop numbered 46. He died in 1829, and for many years his widow, Ellen Thorpe, conducted a prosperous business. She was very successful in treating women's and children's complaints, and for several years confined her own efforts to prescribing for the numerous patients who crowded the shop day by day. After seeing her patients she gave to each a prescription, which was dispensed by one of her assistants. The business continued for many years, the last proprietor being Thomas Foden, who bought it from the executors of Ellen Thorpe in 1860.

The name Peduzzi was well known where picture-framing was required to be done. Antony Peduzzi commenced business in Spear Street, removing afterwards to Tib Street, and later still to 31, Oldham Street. His son James started about 1822, in a shop only a few yards away, a second business of the same description. A notice of the father's business appears in James Butterworth's *Complete History of the Trade of Manchester*, and is worthy of note. Mr. Peduzzi is described

as a "carver and gilder, looking-glass and picture frame maker ; all kinds of needlework, drawings, and pictures are elegantly framed and glazed by him. Barometers, thermometers, and hydrometers made and repaired." The reference to needlework reminds us of the samplers on which our grandmothers bestowed so much time, labour, and thought. Thirty years ago specimens were of common occurrence ; now we rarely see them, although one would like to possess a few specimens.

A DANDY DOCTOR.

The fop is ever with us. Fashions may change, but the fop remains. A member of the order was H. W. Heurtly, who practised as a surgeon in Oldham Street seventy years ago. He was a bachelor, and was remarkable for his dress. A dandy in his younger years, he adhered to the fashions of his youth many years after other men had abandoned them. His trousers or, as they were then called, pantaloons fitted tight round the calf and finished off above the ankle. He posed as a wit and was most persistent in repeating to friends any good thing that he may have said. He was equally determined in denouncing the teachings of Christianity, and as a result, although he possessed much professional skill, he never had an extensive practice.

In 1848 a resident of Oldham Street received honourable recognition at the hands of a number of workers in the cause of Free Trade. On February 14 a copy of *The League* newspaper, in three volumes, was presented to Miss Todman, of the *King Inn*, Oldham Street, with

the following inscription in gold letters. "Presented to Miss Todman, as a small tribute of respect and esteem for her laudable exertions in the great cause of commercial freedom."

A little distance from Oldham Street was the Oak Street Baptist Chapel, opened in 1825. It was a small building and is principally notable for the fact that John Cassell, the founder of the well-known publishing firm, lectured there as a young man. Born of poor parents in Manchester, he received a very meagre education before he was set to work. By perseverance he overcame many difficulties, and studied many subjects. He was converted to teetotalism by one of the Preston veterans, and was often to be seen afterwards at temperance meetings. Joseph Livesey, who visited Manchester in 1835, describes the young man as he appeared at one of his meetings. "I remember him well, when lecturing at Mr. Beardsall's Chapel, Oak Street, standing on the right just below, or on the steps of the platform, in his working attire, with a fustian jacket and a white apron on. He was then an apprentice, but without serving his time he left Manchester, a raw, uncultivated youth." Leaving Manchester in search of congenial work, he preached temperance in various parts of the country, and the "Manchester carpenter" spoke to some purpose, numbering amongst his converts the Rev. Charles Garrett, the popular Wesleyan minister, and Mr. J. H. Barker, many years secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance.

OLDHAM STREET.

PART V.

TWO INTERESTING RECORDS.

Whatever may be its past history, to the Manchester woman of to-day, Oldham Street is the hub of the local universe, for there are to be found more shops devoted to the sale of articles of clothing and adornment than can be found in any other street of similar length in the city. We cannot therefore close our notes on the story of its history without some reference to several of the best known drapery establishments associated with it. Many familiar names will recur to the memory, some belonging to the past, as, for instance that of Thomas Peel, but many more associated with the present. Two names stand out from the remainder, one devoted to the retail and the other to the wholesale, as having the most interesting histories, and as showing a development not equalled by any other firm associated with the street.

L., J., AND G. COOPER, LIMITED.

It is little more than eighty years since John Cooper, son of Robert Cooper, migrated to Manchester from Chedderton, a quiet Staffordshire village. He took a shop that stood three doors from the corner of Whittle

Street, and commenced business as a draper. He was an extremely methodical man, and after his death many interesting papers, all carefully preserved, were found. Two of these should be mentioned. One is the original fire insurance policy issued by the Sun fire office. It is for the sum of £1,000, and covered the stock and fixtures in the new shop. It is dated March 27, 1823, and the amount of premium charged was £1, to which was added the Government tax of £1 10s. The second document to which I refer is a receipt for money paid, bearing the signature of John Rylands, and dated September 30, 1825, only three years after the latter had taken possession of the New High Street premises. Even in those days there was great competition between opposing drapery firms in Oldham Street, and the fight between John Cooper and the Robinsons was particularly keen. The latter business was carried on by John and Martha Robinson and was popularly known as the "Quaker's shop." As a result Cooper introduced an innovation into the trade, and ticketed the goods shown in his windows with prices. The example was soon copied by others, and in a very few years was generally adopted. The business prospered and in 1832 his younger brother George, who had come to Manchester three years earlier with his parents, joined him, the firm becoming J. and G. Cooper. About the same time a removal was made to larger premises at the corner of Church Street. As showing the value of land in Oldham Street it may be noted that the rent of the two shops and a house which com-

prised the new premises was £155. A few years later George Cooper commenced travelling for the firm in the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire, and soon afterwards extended his operations to Wales and Ireland. In this way the foundation of a wholesale business was laid. Special attention was given to straw plaiting, and very soon the shop was known as "Cooper's straw shop." Further extension was soon necessary, additional premises in Church Street were taken; and in 1843 a factory was purchased at Dunstable.

A third brother, James Gould Cooper, carried on a wholesale fustian and velveteen business in Bridge Street. In 1850 he joined his brothers in partnership under the style of I., J., and G. Cooper, introducing into the concern his wholesale connexion. The wholesale department soon became more important than the retail, and in a short time the latter was abandoned. Gradually other departments were added until at length the firm took its place in the front rank of home trade houses. From 1870 to 1875 the premises, having been further extended, were entirely rebuilt, and for more than a quarter of a century served the purposes of the firm until the erection of the present palatial building in Dale Street.

The three partners attained to long life. John, the eldest, retired from business some years before his death, which took place at Crieff in October, 1883. Like his father and brother he took active part in the work of the Wesleyan Church, and one of his daughters married the Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, the popular preacher,

lecturer, and author whose book descriptive of the life of Daniel Quorm is delightfully quaint and full of interest. John Cooper died at the age of 78, his brother J. G. at 81, and George at 82. The last-named, who died in 1905, took a leading part in the movement that resulted in the erection of the Central Hall. It should be noted that Cooper's was one of the first commercial houses who recognized the Saturday half-holiday movement.

AFFLECK AND BROWN.

Nearly half a century ago two young men, John Currie and James Lowe, assistants at Faulkner's in Stevenson Square, left their situations and commenced business as drapers at 59, Oldham Street. The partnership was not of long standing, for in 1859 they separated, Currie retaining possession, but James Lowe removing lower down the street, where he founded the business still conducted under his name. Currie on the look out for a partner, persuaded Rober Affleck to join him. Affleck, who came originally from the Scotch town Ayr, after being employed at Westhead's warehouse had entered into the firm of M'Kerrow, Young, and Affleck. This he severed in order to join Currie, the firm becoming Currie and Affleck. At that time the Oldham Street business was a very modest concern. Only one porter was employed, and he cleaned the windows and delivered most of the parcels, in addition to other duties. The small staff of assistants lived on the premises. The new partnership, like its prede-

cessor, did not last long, and Currie leaving it, went to Lawson's mantle shop in King Street.

Affleck was not long without a partner, for in 1860 he was joined by John Brown, a brither Scot, and the firm became Affleck and Brown. Mr. Brown came from the Ayrshre village that had produced Ivie Mackie, who became Mayor of Manchester; David M'Gill, so well known in connexion with the Manchester Carriage Company; and several others who attained to honourable positions in our city. Brown did not originally settle in Manchester, but first tried his luck as a tea dealer and draper at Rochester. Acting under medical advice in the interest of his wife he decided to come further north. Arrived in Manchester with little more than the proverbial half-crown, he sought an interview with Ivie Mackie, who introduced him to several of the leading warehouses, including Bannerman's and Rylands', and became guarantor for the payment for any goods supplied to him. Thus encouraged the young Scotchman commenced business, carrying his pack from village to village round Manchester. By perseverance, steadiness, and hard work he earned and secured success, and when in 1860 he was invited by Mr. Affleck to join him in business he had money to put into the concern. From that time onward the story of the firm has been comprised in two words, success and extension. In turn they absorbed shop after shop, the establishments hitherto conducted by Dyson's, furniture dealers; Lipman's, tailors; Binyon, Robinson's, tea dealers; and others being annexed. In 1879 the pre-

mises so absorbed were rebuilt ; but in 1888 the senior partner died, Mr. Brown surviving him by about twelve years. Mr. Affleck took a somewhat active part in public affairs and for a few years represented Collegiate Ward in the City Council. Mr. Brown on the other hand was not interested in public matters, and leaving business some time before his death, passed the closing years of his life in quiet retirement. A man of few words, he was exceedingly shrewd and more than maintained the reputation earned by Scotchmen for long-headedness. On one occasion when a buyer explained that although offering one line of goods under cost price he hoped to recoup himself by obtaining higher prices for another, he said in broad Scotch that each herring should hang by its own neck. Since his retirement the evergrowing concern has been managed by his sons, who have recently completed the largest extension ever undertaken by the firm, the absorption of the entire premises used for so many years by Messrs. I., J., and G. Cooper.



DALE STREET ANNALS.

PART I.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT.

Through the kindness of the managing director of Messrs. I., J., and G. Cooper, I have been permitted to examine an interesting document connected with the land on which Dale Street and the surrounding thoroughfares were laid out. It is the deed recording the sale of the land by Sir Ashton Lever, of Alkington, to William Stevenson, of Auborne Lodge, in Urmston, and is dated December 23, 1780. The land in question was bounded by Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Port Street, and Ancoats Lane (Great Ancoats Street), and represented an area of nine acres two roods and sixteen perches. The chief rent upon the plot was nineteen shillings and ninepence, and the price paid was £3,150. The land sold did not comprise the whole of the area named, for several small plots had been sold previously. These included much of the land fronting to Piccadilly and single small plots facing Ancoats Lane and Port Street, and several small ones in Oldham Street. As denoting the enormous increase in land values, it may be pointed out that in the case under notice in 1780 it stood at 1s. 10½d. per yard. To-day it is about five

hundred times more. It may be also noted in this connexion that all of the street names in the area named were derived from persons who at one time or another purchased portions of the land.

It is curious that on Laurent's plan we find many variations in the street names as compared with those with which we are familiar. On the plan we have Dale Street extending to Port Street only, the extension to Ducie Street being named Clowes Street. Back Piccadilly, from Port Street to Lever Street, was known as Travis Street, and from Lever Street to Oldham Street, Birch Street. Lena Street was known as Piccadilly Lane and Ducie's Street; Booth Street as Booth Street and Pitt Street; China Lane as Carey Street and China Lane, whilst a small thoroughfare near Ancoats Lane bore the name of Pudding Land. Lena Street was a few years ago changed from Lees Street, and on Laurent's plan we see how originally it was a continuation of the Lees Street still existing at the Great Ancoats Street end of the plot.

THE ROCHDALE CANAL.

The separation of the two ends of Lees Street was caused by the making of the Rochdale Canal and the formation of the wharves connected with it. The Act authorizing its construction was passed through Parliament in April, 1794, and it was described as "a navigation from the Duke of Bridgewater's canal at Manchester, to the Calder navigation at Sowerby Bridge, near Hali-

fax." It passes through Failsworth, Middleton, Hopwood, Littleborough, and Hebden Bridge. It is thirty-one and a half miles long, and at its highest part is 438 feet above the Manchester level. The company appears to have encountered serious difficulties in carrying out the scheme, and in 1800 and 1804 Acts of Parliament were obtained to more effectually enable them to discharge their debts and to raise additional money to complete the works. On December 21, 1804, the canal was opened. The committee travelled from Rochdale to Manchester in two boats, accompanied by the band of the First Battalion of the Manchester and Salford Volunteers, and on the same evening a boat loaded with goods came from Rochdale to Manchester, and proceeded through to Liverpool next morning. On October 28, 1839, the Manchester and Salford Junction Canal, which connected the Irwell near the Old Quay with the Rochdale Canal near the Albion Mills, was opened. This was done in order to enable the Old Quay Company to compete with the Bridgewater Canal proprietors in the carrying of goods between Liverpool and Yorkshire. The Junction Canal has long ceased to be used, and all outward traces of its existence have been removed. It passed under Camp Street, crossed Deansgate, and passed under the site of the Great Northern goods station and the central station by means of a tunnel. Only a section of this remains, inhabited by rats.

THE BOOTH CHARITY.

Much of the land at this end of Dale Street forms a portion of the endowment of the elder Booth's Charity. By deed dated February 18, 1630, Humphrey Booth, the elder, left two small estates, one consisting of six acres of land situated on the town side of Shooter's Brook, and the other consisted of eight acres of land and was known as Millward Croft. This formed a portion of the area bounded by the Rochdale Canal—Gaythorn, Dickinson Street, and Charlotte Street. The object of the charity was for the "better relief, succour, and aid of such poor, aged, and impotent people as shall inhabit within the town or borough of Salford, as the constable and churchwarden shall judge proper." Little did worthy Humphrey Booth imagine in 1630 that the small plots of farmland which let for small rentals only in 1630 would ultimately become the sites of important business centres, and that they would, in less than three centuries, provide an income of £16,000 per annum. When Manchester began to extend to the south-east the value of the properties gradually increased, until in 1776 an Act of Parliament was passed giving the trustees of the charity power to grant building leases for ninety-nine years. The land was laid out into building plots and streets, one of the latter being Booth Street, and before the century closed most of the land had been disposed of. The short leases granted have since fallen in, with the result that the

amount of money available for distribution has been considerably increased.

JAMES NASMYTH.

Since its industrial career commenced, something less than a century ago, Dale Street has had associated with it several names familiar to Manchester people. First and foremost amongst these is that of James Nasmyth, who, in Dale Street, made his first settlement in our district. Like many other successful Manchester citizens, he was of Scottish birth, the family of Naesmyth being one of remote antiquity to Tweeddale, where they had possessed lands since the thirteenth century. Alexander Nasmyth was an artist, and more than a small share of his talent in this respect was inherited by his son James, who was the youngest son of a family that comprised four sons and seven daughters. He was born in Edinburgh on August 19, 1808, and in early years gave unmistakable proofs of possessing that mechanical genius that made him famous. At the age of nineteen he made a road steam locomotive, and in 1829 went to London, where he became assistant to Henry Maudsley. During a holiday in 1830 he visited Liverpool to see Stephenson's "Rocket," which had been awarded first prize by the directors of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company. After spending a few days in Liverpool he walked to Manchester. At Patricroft he sat down to rest on the canal bridge. The surroundings attracted him, and in later years they became more familiar. After the death of Mauds-

ley in 1831 Nasmyth again visited Manchester with the object of commencing an engineering business here. He was introduced by Edward Tootal, the merchant of York Street, to John Kennedy, of Ardwick Hall, who encouraged his idea of commencing business, and took Nasmyth to a disused cotton mill that stood at the corner of Port Street. He there rented a room and commenced an engineering business. An introduction to Daniel Grant was followed by an interview at the Cannon Street warehouse and an invitation to the private house at Mosley Street. When Grant heard that the young engineer only possessed a capital of £63, he at once told him that he might call on him at any time for £500, which he would lend him at 3 per cent. and without security. The venture proved successful, and orders poured in until an accident compelled him to look out for new and more extensive premises. An order had been received for a high pressure engine of twenty horse-power to drive the machinery at a Londonderry distillery. The engine had been completed, and was being taken to pieces for shipment when the men allowed the end of the engine beam to drop on to the floor. The portion of the floor gave way, and the heavy mass of ironwork crashed into the stock of a glass cutter who occupied the room below. The landlord was called in to see the wreckage, and urged the young engineer to find other premises with all convenient speed. Without delay the latter made his way to Patricroft, where he secured the piece of land that had previously attracted his attention, and in

course of time built the premises still occupied by his successors. A man of marvellous ingenuity and inventive capacity, the number of inventions produced by him was very great. Perhaps the greatest of these was the steam hammer, by means of which the workman can make the gentlest of taps or wield tremendous blows. Space will only permit the mention of the splendid telescope Nasmyth constructed, and the wonderful series of drawings of, and the map of the moon's surface, which he produced by its aid, and which secured for him the gold medal of the great exhibition of 1851.



DALE STREET ANNALS.

PART II.

A FEW NOTABLE RESIDENTS.

JAMES WOLFENDEN, A REMARKABLE MATHEMATICIAN.

In the early days of elementary education great importance was attached to two subjects—writing and mathematics—and in the Manchester of the earlier decades of the last century were to be found a number of teachers of the latter subject. Amongst these James Wolfenden occupied a position of honour. He belonged to the somewhat numerous class of men who, through a life of poverty, sought to educate themselves. Wolfenden's parents were extremely poor and were not able to give him even the rudiments of education. As a child he was sent to work, and he continued to work until he died in his eighty-seventh year. In some way or other he not only learnt the rudiments of education, but in the early part of the century he took a room in Dale Street, where he gave private lessons in the higher branches of mathematics. He lived at Hollinwood, but was for many years a distinguished member of the Literary and Philosophical Society. He died in 1841, and the inscription placed on his grave-

stone in St. Margaret's Churchyard, Hollinwood, is worth reproducing. It was as follows :—" James Wolfenden, of Hollinwood ; died March 29, 1841, aged 87 years. Born in a humble station of life and compelled to toil as a weaver for his daily bread. Self-instructed, he became a distinguished mathematician, familiar with the writings of Simpson, Emerson, and the Ancient Geometers ; an able contributor to the Diaries and other Mathematical Publications, and a student of the works of Newton. A few members of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, with other individuals anxious to mark their sense of acquirements like his, made under such unfavourable circumstances, raised in the year 1841 a sum sufficient to purchase an annuity for his support, but his death occurring shortly after, they determined, besides bearing the expenses of his funeral, to place this stone over his remains to perpetuate the memory of his name and merits." Such was the man who gave lessons in mathematics in a room in Dale Street in 1816.

CHARLES AMBERY.

There resided in one of the houses facing Booth Street another self-made man. Charles Clayton Ambery was a joiner by trade, but by great perseverance became a good scholar. He showed a strong liking to literature, and this prompted Benjamin Braidley to find him the means of commencing business as a bookseller. Ambery, like many others, owed much to the Bennett Street Sunday School, and he showed his appreciation

by devoting much of his energy and time to work connected with the great institution. His shop in Market Street was the resort of the best known book collectors and literary men of the town. He died in 1848. Two of his sons attained to high positions in the Colonies. John Ambery, after passing through the Manchester Grammar School, graduated at Oxford as a scholar of Brasenose College. After entering the Church he went to Canada, where he was appointed professor of classics in Trinity College, Toronto. His younger brother Charles died at Beltana, South Australia, in 1879. He had occupied various important positions in the Colony during the period of his residence. At the corner of Stanley Street, now Tariff Street, was a chemist's shop conducted by John Mount. His mother, Ann Mount, was a butcher, occupying one of the stalls in the Brown Street market. She was well known as a shrewd business woman, and amassed quite a respectable fortune. John Mount afterwards took the shop at the corner of Buxton Street, occupied by Mr. J. Bell. He was remembered by my father as one who to his death dressed in the style of his earlier days, and was in all his dealings scrupulously exact.

JOHN MARSLAND BENNETT.

John Marsland Bennett was a son of John Bennett, who carried on business as a timber merchant, wheelwright, and brick maker at 47, Dale Street, where he had a timber yard only removed within recent years. He lived in a house on the opposite side of the street.

John Marsland was at least the third generation of the family to be engaged in the timber trade. His grandfather, James Bennett, was so occupied in New Bridge Street in 1788, and even as far back as 1772 we find him described as a timber man with premises at Dolefield, Deansgate. The succeeding generations of the family appear to have succeeded in the trade, the most successful being John Marsland Bennett, who on account of the promptness of his dealings was known as "Ready Money John." But although thus prompt he was not a Shylock, and one gentleman, who now occupies a high position in a Lancashire town, received at his hands most generous treatment at a time when disaster seemed to have ruined his prospects in business. To most Manchester men Mr. Bennett was best known for the part he took in public affairs. Holding strong Conservative views he was returned as a councillor for Ardwick Ward without opposition in 1851. He was not opposed in 1854, nor in 1857, and on November 9, 1859, he was promoted to the aldermanic bench. He occupied the mayoral chair in the years 1863-5.

In 1867 Edwin James, the barrister who had achieved the remarkable victory at the general election of 1865, died, and a contest to fill the vacancy resulted. The candidates were a trio of interesting men. They comprised Jacob Bright, J. M. Bennett, and Mitchell Henry, who ran as an independent Liberal. The victory rested with Jacob Bright, who thus commenced a long career as one of the representatives of the city in Parliament. The election was also notable for the fact that included

in the names on the register for St. Clement's Ward was that of a woman, who recorded her vote for Mr. Bright. In after years he took a leading part in the advocacy of "women's rights," and it is curious that he should have received the first vote recorded by a woman in a Parliamentary election in Great Britain. When the Marquis of Salisbury was entertained to dinner by the Chamber of Commerce in 1868 Alderman Bennett occupied the chair. In the following year he purchased the manorial rights of the manor or lordship of Higher and Lower Ardwick. In many other ways he showed his interest in public affairs, but limitations of space will not allow further reference to a career that was marked by many valuable services to the city.

EDMUND BUCKLEY.

When the Rochdale Canal opened a number of coal and iron merchants established themselves on the wharves that ran alongside it. One of these was Edmund Buckley, who lived for many years at 19, Piccadilly, but afterwards removed to the fine old-fashioned house that stood until recently in Higher Ardwick. Mr. Buckley died nearly a millionaire, but conflicting statements have been made respecting his start in life. In the Parliamentary Companion for 1841 he was described as the son of John Buckley, Esq., of Stalybridge. On the other hand, we are told that he came almost penniless from Saddleworth, and before coming to Manchester he had been employed by James Lees, cotton dealer, Stalybridge, at a wage of 7s. 6d. per week.

He, however, was very successful in later years and in addition to becoming an ironmaster and the proprietor of collieries was appointed to the boards of several canal and railway companies. In 1841 he was elected one of the Parliamentary representatives for Newcastle-under-Lyme, but declined to stand for re-election in 1847. In 1868 he received a baronetcy. He was a leading figure in the social life of the city for many years, and was associated with the John Shaw and the Scramble clubs. The clubs themselves must be left for treatment on future occasions, but Mr. Buckley's connection with them should be noted. He joined the first-named club in 1824, and was in 1852 appointed president, a position which he held until the time of his death. The Scramble Club could not boast so notable an origin as did the John Shaw Club, and although it is generally understood to have originated with a number of business men, the paternity is attributed to Mr. Buckley; and in 1840 he was presented with a gold snuffbox by the members of the club.

The making of the slope approach to London Road Station necessitated great changes in the neighbourhood of Ducie Street. Prior to those alterations Ducie Street was a dog-leg shaped thoroughfare leading from Wittle's Croft to a point in London Road directly opposite to Shepley Street. An arm of the Rochdale Canal ran a few yards from London Road to within a short distance of Store Street. Turning sharply to the left it ran to near Boad Street, where a further diversion was made, after which it divided into two sections, the

one again joining the Rochdale Canal, and the other passing under Junction Street formed the junction with the Ashton and Stockport Canal; which was carried over Store Street by a bridge which was regarded by our grandfathers as a triumph of engineering skill. When the railway approach was made Ducie Street was straightened, and the arm of the canal was filled up, the land being absorbed by the slope and the stables in Store Street.



LEVER STREET ANNALS.

PART I.

The names of Lever Street and Stevenson Square originated with the successive owners of the land thereabouts. The Lever family owned an estate connected with their residence that formerly stood opposite to the daub-holes, and as previously stated William Stevenson purchased nine acres of the land from Sir Ashton Lever in 1780. When planning it for building purposes he set back the building line where Hilton Street crossed Lever Street. In this way he produced the square bearing his name. Although it was for many years entirely residential, it never became so fashionable as St. Ann's and St. James's Squares.

ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH.

In 1793 the Rev, Edward Smyth built the Church of St. Clement that stood at the corner of Lever Street and Stevenson Square. Mr. Smyth, who was the son of Archbishop Smyth, of Dublin, afterwards built St. Luke's Church, Chorlton Row. He was incumbent of St. Clement's until 1818, when he was succeeded by the Rev. William Nunn. The church was opened on Christmas Day, 1793, and was licensed, but not conse-

crated. Aston, in his *Metrical History of Manchester*, explains the reason in the following lines:—

But another—St. Clement's—in more orthodox way,
Was opened for worship upon Christmas Day ;
But tho' England's Church Worship is used in the place,
It has not been bless'd with Episcopal grace ;
A licence to preach, like dissenters, is granted,
But Right Reverend blessings by many are wanted.
The obstacle is not a want of belief,
But the site is not free—for 'tis built on a " chief " ;
And the Church holds that Truth cannot truly be told
Except the Place it be preach'd in be wholly freehold.

The two churches were the property of Mr. Smyth, and in 1817 the reverend gentleman was the victim of paralysis which produced a change at St. Clement's Church. In the columns of the *Christian Observer* for June appeared the following curious advertisement :
" Two churches to be sold in Manchester ; and if not a curate wanted. Address post paid, the Rev. E. Smyth, Chorlton Hall, Manchester." This attracted the attention of the Rev. W. Nunn, curate of Foleshill, near Nuneaton.

REV. W. NUNN.

Mr. Nunn replied to the advertisement, and came to Manchester to see Mr. Smyth, who told him that the price for St. Clement's Church was £1,000, and that of St. Luke's was £2,000. In the former case Mr. Smyth owned twenty pews, and received a chief rent of 25s. a year per pew for the remainder. Out of this, the chief rent on the land was to be paid. At first the price deterred further proceedings ; but, ultimately sub-

scriptions were obtained, the money vested in trustees, and Mr. Nunn took charge of the living. When he settled in Manchester he took the house, No. 1, Lawton Street, Granby Row. As a clergyman he was very successful, and exerted a great influence over the members of his congregation. He held the living for twenty-two years, and died on March 9, 1840, his funeral being largely attended. His son, the Rev. Canon Joseph Nunn, is perhaps the best known clergyman in the city. St. Clement's Church, as such, is now a thing of the past, the building being used by Messrs. Richard Johnson, Clapham, and Morris. The schools in Baird Street are attached to St. Andrew's Church, but the name of the former church is perpetuated in the name of the ward in which it was situated.

THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

At the corner of the square and Lever Street, now occupied by a furniture establishment, stood the Olympic Theatre. The site has an interesting story, although the period covered is only short. The story takes us back to Dr. Warren, who was expelled by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, and who founded the body known for some years as the Wesleyan Methodist Association. He conducted service for some time in a wooden building that stood where the Grotto Restaurant now stands, and which was designated "The Tabernacle." It had been built and used as a circus by a member of the Cooke family, but as such had been a failure. For some reason the "Warrenites," as they were popularly

called, removed to a wood and brick building that stood on the opposite side of Lever Street, and remained there until the chapel higher up the street was completed. Dr. Warren afterwards joined the Church of England, and conducted services in All Souls' Church, Every Street. The Stevenson Square building was next used as a waggon warehouse, but the railway system developing, caused the venture to be a failure, and the building was taken down, and one of a more permanent character erected on the site. This was opened as the Olympic Theatre on December 26, 1838. As such its career was short, but not altogether devoid of interest. On its boards appeared James Carter, whose performances with a troupe of trained lions were a great success. Contemporaneous with Carter was Van Amburgh, who was supposed to be a rival to him in the show business. Instead of this they were partners in the two ventures, and when Carter married Miss Dean, the daughter of Samuel Dean, a pawnbroker, who lived at the corner of Thomas Street and Tib Street, Van Amburgh acted as groomsman. An even greater success than Carter at the Olympic was T. Rice, the popular Jim Crow, singer and dancer. Amongst the representatives of the legitimate drama who appeared there was G. V. Brooke, whose success in many Shakspearean characters, and whose tragic death on *The London* will be remembered by many Manchester people. Although occasionally well filled, the venture was a failure, and the Olympic Theatre, as such, was soon abandoned ; and in 1842 the building

was purchased by Messrs. Falkner Brothers, who converted it into a drapery establishment. For many years there was next door to the building a public-house, whose sign, *The Olympic*, served to remind passers-by of the ill-fated venture. It may be noted that twenty years ago one of the ministers connected with the chapel belonging to the Methodist Free Church previously referred to was the Rev. Silas K. Hocking.

STEVENSON SQUARE MEETINGS.

For three-quarters of a century the square has been popular with open-air orators. Innumerable have been the causes advocated from improvised platforms. Religious gatherings representing most phases of religious thought, temperance and social reform meetings, and mass meetings of Liberals, Conservatives, Socialists, and Chartists have been held there. Perhaps the advocates of total abstinence have been the most persistent of the many speakers who have aired their eloquence there, and therefore no further reason need be assigned for mentioning here a public debate that took place there about sixty years ago. Dr. R. B. Grindrod was one of the earliest and most determined advocates of total abstinence, and was untiring in the efforts he put forth on behalf of the policy. This aroused a strong feeling of antagonism on the part of the publicans and brewers. At length Mr. Youil, a brewer who kept the *Hen and Chickens* in Oldham Street, took up the cudgels on behalf of the trade. He replied to Dr. Grindrod's lectures by giving one from his standpoint in Stevenson

Square. It is said that over ten thousand persons were present, and on the platform, in addition to a score or more of publicans, was Dr. Grindrod. Not content with his platform utterance, Mr. Youil had a number of caricatures of the doctor distributed amongst the crowd. The latter replied briefly after the close of the lecture, but dealt exhaustively with every part of it in three lectures, delivered to audiences of three thousand persons, who crammed the Tabernacle on successive evenings. It would be impossible to give a list of the orators who have spoken from luries and other vehicles in the square since then ; and on occasions I have seen three or four separate gatherings grouped round speakers who have been advocating entirely different views. Not only so, but the square has often been a convenient meeting ground for processions, the most notable of which was that tremendous gathering representing all branches of trade which the Trades Council organized on the occasion of the opening of the Manchester Town Hall. In the procession were to be seen representatives of many trades busy at work. Others carried specimens of their handiwork and emblems of their trades. The numbers taking part were swelled by the inclusion of members of friendly societies and other bodies. Over 50,000 persons took part in this remarkable demonstration, and the procession was between five and six miles long.

LEVER STREET ANNALS.

PART II.

SOME LEADING RESIDENTS.

JOHN BROOKS.

In Pigot and Dean's directory for 1824-5 we find the entry: "Brooks John, calico printer, house 68, Lever Street." John Brooks was one of the three sons of William Brooks, of Blackburn, all of whom made fortunes in business in Manchester. He was born in 1786, and coming to the city as a young man, entered into partnership with Mr. Butterworth, thereby commencing the well-known firm of Butterworth and Brooks. Mr. Brooks had a wide knowledge of commercial affairs, and this, combined with an original and forcible style, gave him a great advantage over less experienced men when such subjects were under discussion. It was thus that he silenced Lord Stanley at Lancaster in 1841. It is well to remember that John Brooks, although Conservative in politics, was one of the earliest, most zealous, and most generous supporters of the Anti-Corn Law League. His name appears on several of the subscription lists opened by the League, and when the £250,000 fund was decided upon he was one of the first to promise £1,000.

In 1848, in consequence of failing health, he paid a visit to the United States, but without any satisfactory result, and he died on October 27, 1849, at his residence, Clarendon House, Cheetham Hill. As a man he was exceedingly generous to many who sought his assistance. It is said that his kindness was imposed upon by an individual whose failure involved him in the loss of £70,000. Returning to his warehouse, he told his manager that he had resolved neither to lend nor give money in future. As he said this, a woman having some ragged, hungry-looking children with her, was seen in the passage. He ordered that a shilling should be given to her, but his manager reminded him of his new decision. "Well, well," he said, "but don't begin with this woman and her children." And he never did begin the change of policy.

T. FAWDINGTON, SURGEON.

In a building standing at the corner of Lever Street and Back Piccadilly the well-known surgeon, Thomas Fawdington, lived and practised for many years. He carried on a large practice, and included amongst his patients were some of the leading townsmen of the day. When Mr. Whalton died suddenly in 1835 he was nominated for the post of surgeon to the Infirmary. The election aroused much interest, and took place at a special meeting of the Governors held in the Town Hall. Four nominations were made, and a poll was demanded, as the result of which Joseph Jordan was elected by 466 votes, Mr. Fawdington coming second with 350.

As a lecturer on anatomy Mr. Fawdington occupied a high position, being on the staff of the Pine Street, Mount Street, and Marsden Street Medical Schools. One of his pupils, R. H. M'Keand, afterwards became famous for his treatment of the eye.

Directly opposite to Dr. Fawdington's house was that of Benjamin Roberts, another well-known surgeon. He was the son of one of the earliest Methodist preachers associated with Manchester. The father began preaching in 1759, being sent out by John Wesley at a time when the preaching of Methodism meant in many cases persecution and ill-treatment. He was one of the ministers at Oldham Street in 1774, and again in 1799.

DENTISTRY IN 1838.

The premises of the third corner of Lever Street and Back Piccadilly were occupied by a firm of dentists, Messrs. Faulkner and Son. When we consider the number of dentists now carrying on business in the city it is curious that so recently as 1838 there were only seven such establishments, and in 1824 the number was only three, one of which was the firm under notice. John Faulkner, the founder of the firm, commenced business in Deansgate early in the century, and afterwards removed to Oldham Street. In addition to the local practitioners, a London firm sent a representative occasionally, and one of their advertisements appeared in the columns of the *Manchester Chronicle* for December 29, 1838. Monsieur Mallan announced a reduction in the prices charged, and compared with the modern

advertisements of a set of teeth for a guinea, they are interesting reading. A single tooth cost ten shillings, and a set was charged for at the rate of five guineas ; but " a set of Messrs. Mallan's incorrodible teeth, highly finished in the first style, with fine gold sockets," cost twenty pounds. Mouth furniture was an expensive luxury in those days, when few working men earned more than a pound per week. The filling of teeth was apparently a novel proceeding, for a sentence in the advertisement announces that : " Monsieur M. particularly invites the members of the Faculty to witness the operation of filling decayed teeth with their mineral succedaneum, of which they are the sole inventors and possessors." No charge for filling was mentioned.

SOME MORE RESIDENTS.

In the thirties Lever Street was as may be supposed almost exclusively a residential street, but although many of the residents were well-to-do people few of them left any record on the page of local history. Several may, however, be mentioned. At number 13 the Rev. John Birt, who was the second minister appointed by the congregation of the York Street Baptist Chapel. A few doors further up the street lived Simon Williamson, who acted as assistant librarian at the Portico in Mosley Street. His next-door neighbour was Robert Bradbury, who carried on business as an organ builder. Number 41 was occupied as a tavern by Joseph Lumb. The house bore the curious designation of *Vanish Tavern*. Near the top of the street was an academy

kept by Edward Fell, whose name reminds one of the familiar lines associated with another pedagogue of the same name,

I do not like thee, Doctor Fell,
The reason why I cannot tell ;
But this I know, I know full well,
I do not like thee, Doctor Fell.

Education was further represented in our street by Thomas Graham, a well-known professor of music, who lived on the opposite side, near to Dale Street.

DR. PETER ROYLE.

No account of Lever Street would be complete without a reference to the Royle family, several members of which have been known to wide circles of friends during the last half century. The family have been long connected with the city, Peter Royle a century ago carrying on the business of a baker in Turner Street, not very far from St. Paul's Church. His father had previously carried on a similar business, and the entry in the directories of 1772 and 1773 of "Royle James, baker, Back Salford," evidently refers to him. The shop in Turner Street was originally numbered 53, but afterwards was renumbered. It stood next door but one from the corner of Elbow Street. Peter Royle was fortunate in business, and amassed a fortune sufficiently large to enable him to retire from business. Unlike the tradesmen of to-day he did not dispose of his business as a going concern, and retire with his family into the country. He sold off his stock and fixtures, made

certain alterations to the premises, and continued to reside in Turner Street. In the directories for a quarter of a century he is described as a gentleman. Two of his sons became familiar figures in Manchester streets in later years, and a few lines respecting each will not be out of place. Peter Royle qualified as a medical man, and more than half a century ago he was installed in the house in Lever Street so long associated with him. From the early years in his career he was active in public circles. An uncompromising Tory he rendered many valuable services to his party. In the fifties he had a series of interesting experiences. For three years in succession he appeared as a candidate for municipal honours in Collegiate ward. In 1855 he was defeated by Mr. T. W. Dyson, surgeon, in 1856 by Miles Craston, hatter, by seventeen votes, and in 1857 by John Leigh by twenty votes. In 1858 he was more successful in New Cross ward, but in 1861 he was again defeated. A record of four defeats in five contests has rarely been equalled in our municipal records. Twenty years ago he entered the lists as a candidate for Parliamentary honour, contesting South Manchester against Sir Henry E. Roscoe, who was elected by 670 votes. In spite of his extreme political views the Doctor was very popular with all sections of the citizens, and his death removed from our midst a notable figure, and one who rendered many valuable services to his fellows. As a lover of cricket the remarkable success of his son Vernon, who will be remembered as the finest cover-point ever seen in the field, was particularly gratifying. The doctor

was assisted in his practice by his brother John, who, born in Turner Street, afterwards lived at the Lever Street, and later at a house at the junction of Port Street and Dean Street. In some respects he was as striking a character as his brother, and like him took a deep interest in the history of his native city. At his house in Port Street he gathered together a fine collection of engravings and other pictures of local interest, in addition to a valuable series of Landseer engravings, and a collection of specimens of old silver-plate.



PORT STREET.

PART I.

IN 1793.

When Laurent issued his plan of Manchester and Salford Port Street had not entirely lost its rural appearance. From Piccadilly to the corner of Brewer Street it was built up on both sides, but beyond that point on the right-hand side open fields extended to Ancoats Lane. The fields were bounded by Port Street, Ancoats Lane, Lees Street, and Brewer Street. A small lake stood near the corner of Lees Street and Brewer Street, whilst from the corner of Port Street and Ancoats Lane, alongside of the hedge of the field, ran a ditch, which terminated at the corner of Lees Street in a small horse pond. At the opposite corner of Port Street and Ancoats Lane stood a pump, and gardens were attached to many houses in the neighbourhood.

When Aston issued the first edition of *The Manchester Guide* in 1804, the field land was still unbuilt upon, but it had been intersected by the Rochdale Canal, which divided Lees Street into two portions, both of which retained the same street name for about ninety years, when the Piccadilly portion was renamed Lena Street. Even as late as 1824, with the exception of a

single house at the corner of Brewer Street and another at the corner of Great Ancoats Street, the field was unbuilt upon. Stanley Street and Leech Street had, however, been laid out.

A few years later most of the land had been covered, some by houses and shops, some by workshops and yards, but by far the greater proportion by wharves connected with the canal ; and by the forties the street had assumed very much of the appearance that it presents to-day. At that time we find such familiar names in the list of occupiers of premises as Henry Wren, the millwright, who died a few years ago, having amassed a large fortune, Thomas Oxley, the ironmonger, whose corner shop was a familiar landmark with several generations of residents, and John Hall, whose iron business is still carried on on the original site.

A WELL-KNOWN ACTOR.

For some years David Curtis carried on the business of a house painter, and resided at 79, Port Street. He afterwards removed to Great Ancoats Street, and occupied a shop next door to the *Big Tub* public-house. He had several sons, of whom two made names for themselves in theatrical circles. One of these was John Curtis, better known in later years as J. C. Cowper. He was born at Port Street in 1825, and as a young man being associated with the Manchester Athenæum, being for some time an active director. In 1846 he married a daughter of William Carruthers, whose cotton mill stood in the street in Ancoats named after him. He

became interested in educational matters, in which connection he made the acquaintance of Hepworth Dixon, afterwards editor of the *Athenæum*; John Holker, in later years a famous judge; John Ashton Nicholls and W. Romaine Callender, afterwards M.P. for the city. Inheriting from his father a love for the stage, he was one of the founders of the Manchester Shakespeare Society, and took part in several amateur performances. Gradually the magnetic influence of the stage increased, and his dramatic engagements began to encroach upon business duties. In the end the latter were abandoned, and a theatrical career finally entered upon. This took place in 1856, when he joined John Knowles' stock company at the Theatre Royal. There he made his first professional appearance, playing Romeo to Miss Sedgwick's Juliet. For a number of years Cowper was connected with the Theatre Royal, playing a long range of characters; and he attained a high position in public favour. After occupying various positions he became stage manager to Dion Boucicault, and as such was instrumental in bringing into great publicity one who became our greatest actor. In 1866 Boucicault was preparing the production of "The two lives of Mary Leigh." Cowper, who knew of the powers of Henry Irving, with whom he had often played, suggested that he should be entrusted with the part of "Rawdon Scudamore." The suggestion was adopted, and when the play was produced on August 4 at the Prince's Theatre there were also included in the caste Miss Kate Terry, who played Mary Leigh, making

her first appearance in Manchester ; Miss Lydia Foote, who played Clara, and Mr. J. C. Cowper, who played John Leigh. Irving's acting produced such favourable impressions that a London engagement followed, and a successful career was thus entered upon. It was not, however, the unanimous opinion of those who saw the play that Irving's was the finest individual performance ; many giving the palm to Miss Kate Terry and Mr. Cowper. Mr. Cowper afterwards removed to London and died on January 30, 1885, at Barnes, Surrey.

A THEATRE MANAGER.

A second son of David Curtis to achieve distinction in theatrical circles was James Curtis, whose stage name was J. C. Emerson. In his younger days he was connected with the Queen's Theatre, Spring Gardens, and an amusing reminiscence of him has been furnished by one who knew him.

In those days the Queen's was closed during several of the summer months, with the result that the staff were during that period either out of work or doing such odd jobs that they could pick up. Emerson after his father's death carried on one branch of the original business, namely, the whitewashing of the insides of mills as directed by Act of Parliament. As youths, David Curtis had brought up all his sons to work at his trade, and many times my friend has seen the future actor and theatre manager hanging in a skip suspended from the roof of an Ancoats mill by means of ropes, painting the outsides of the window frames. The white-

washing business was busy in summer time, and Emerson would press into service Burgoyne and Adams, who played first and second robbers, and similar parts at the Queen's. Occasionally one of them would be recognized by some lad who had seen them under different circumstances, and would intimate the recognition by a remark in passing. On some occasions the recognition was not welcomed, and the youngster found it desirable to make a hurried departure. My friend says that when resting, Burgoyne grasping his Turk's head's tail as it were a flagstaff, would assume a dramatic pose, which, under the circumstances, was irresistibly funny.

When Barney Egan opened the Queen's Theatre in Bridge Street after its conversion from a music hall in November 1870, he brought together a fairly strong stock company, of which Mr. Emerson was a member. Six years later the actor became the manager of the theatre. He reverted to the old custom of working the theatre by means of a stock company. The experiment was successful, and for eighteen months without any interruption plays by Shakspeare, Boucicault, and other dramatists were produced night by night. This was followed in March, 1877, by an Easter pantomime in connection with which Mr. Joseph Bracewell made his first bow to a Manchester audience. For many years afterwards the name of Bracewell was associated with the Bridge Street House. Mr. Emerson held the position of manager until the expiration of the lease in 1885.

In 1839 Port Street, like many other thoroughfares of those days, offered exceptional opportunities for the

sale and purchase of intoxicating liquors. In the directory for that year there are the names of forty persons either carrying on business or residing in the street. To-day, with the number of offices that are let off separately the list is a much more substantial one. Passing along the left-hand side of the street in 1839 we should have noticed a wine merchant's place of business at number 5, the *Patent Windmill* tavern at No. 13; the *Crown and Anchor* at 23, and the *White Lion* at 61, with a beerhouse at 69. Returning down the opposite side, there was a beerhouse at 40, another at 30, and a third one at No. 12. One wine merchant, three fully-licensed houses, and four beer shops in a short street. The shop then numbered 8, but long ago removed to make way for warehouse property, was for many years popular with many of the daughters of the well-to-do men who resided on Piccadilly, for there Agnes Fishwick kept a circulating library, from which could be obtained many of the new books of fiction. In those days there was no municipal free library, and books were much dearer than is the case to-day. The result was that a number of these private circulating libraries were to be found in different parts of the town.



PORT STREET.

PART II.

ALDERMAN JAMES BAKE.

Fifty years ago few men about town were better known than Councillor, afterwards Alderman, Bake, popularly known as Jim Bake. Born in Manchester in 1800 he was apprenticed to the saddlery business, and about 1824 commenced business on his own account at No. 13, Port Street. In 1833 he disposed of his business, and became proprietor of the *Bull's Head and Market House* in Barnes Street, off Market Street. The words "Market House" were used on account of its proximity to the Brown Street butchers' market, but when the market gave place to the Post Office the name of the house was also changed, and it became the Post Office Hotel. Bake was a well-known sporting character, and under his régime the *Bull's Head* became a notable betting house. As there was no electric telegraph in those days the results of great races were communicated through the country in ways very different from those of to-day. The St. Leger was one of the most important in the North, and it is said that for some years Jim Bake, riding on horseback, brought the news from Doncaster to Manchester, and that in anticipation of his arrival great crowds would meet in the vicinity of his

house in Barnes Street. Having amassed a fortune he retired from business in 1849, and thereafter devoted himself to public work. He had a long career in the Municipal Council, entering the chamber first as a representative of Oxford Ward. He took the seat previously occupied by Richard Roberts, the well-known engineer. This occurred in 1843, Bake being returned by a majority of four votes over George Macbeth, the tailor. After three years' service Bake retired, but in 1847 he was again a candidate for the same ward. This time his opponent was William Gibb, spirit merchant, whom he defeated by 102 votes. He was not opposed in 1850, won another contest in 1853, but retired in 1856. This he did because of his removal to Cheetham, which ward he contested successfully in the same year, and continued to represent it until November 9, 1865, when he was elected Alderman. He was also a member of the Board of the Prestwich Union, and was one of the trustees of the Bury New Road, which was formed in 1853. The Alderman died on July 7, 1879, in his eightieth year.

THE COBDEN COFFEE HOUSE.

Forty years ago there met together for purposes of earnest discussion a number of working men interested in political and social topics. Many of them occupied then or in later years positions of trust and influence, although all had commenced life in the ranks of the operatives. They met in a room at the Cobden Coffee House, which was one of the old, decayed-looking houses that disappeared about a quarter of a century ago. So

well known did the little assembly and their discussions become, that statesmen and Government officials seeking for information on social and industrial questions often made their way to the "Cobden." Many reform leaders also attended meetings there and delivered addresses or joined in some of the debates for which the house was famous. Into that small room John Stuart Mill was introduced and spoke on labour questions. Thither came W. T. Thornton, of the India Office, when collecting information for his book *On Labour*; the Count of Paris when writing on Trades Unions; Jules Simon when getting up the co-operative question; and the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was ever occupied on philanthropic schemes. When Lord Brougham was preparing his inaugural address, to be delivered to the Social Science Congress held in Dublin, he obtained his information from the "Cobden" by a representative whom he sent down for the purpose. Men of very different types were to be met with there. Some will be remembered by the middle-aged and elderly amongst my readers, and some will be entirely forgotten.

Belonging to the former will be Joseph Barker, of Mossley, a man who had a remarkable career. Born at Bramley in 1806, he was never sent to school, but in later years educated himself. Gifted with elocutionary powers, he became a local preacher amongst the Wesleyans, leaving that body afterwards for the Methodist New Connexion. After this he founded a sect called the "Barkerites," then he became a Quaker, and afterwards in turn a Unitarian, a freethinker, and an atheist.

In later life he returned to Christianity and became a local preacher amongst the Primitive Methodists, and closed an eventful career in the United States in 1875. He was a frequent visitor to the "Cobden," as was also Ernest Jones, the chartist, who made the magnificent defence of the Fenians charged with the murder of Sergeant Brett at Hyde Road; John Bardsley, J. C. Edwards, Max Kyllmann, George Cowell, and others. Many American notables also found their way to the Coffee House, including Henry Ward Beecher and some of the military leaders in the war. If any of my readers were personally associated with the "Cobden" I shall be pleased if they will let me have any reminiscences which they may think worthy of note. Most of the regular visitors must have passed away ere this, but they left their mark behind them. The co-operative movement received many of its earlier earnest advocates in Manchester from the Cobden, many of the grievances debated within its walls have been removed, and many of the reforms advocated there have since then been placed in the statute book. It is well for us to remember such men and such movements.

AN INTERESTING RECORD.

It is only when we make personal inquiries that we can make ourselves acquainted with the details of some interesting careers. Some men, although they have a story worth telling, never seem to emerge from that privacy which has surrounded them, and usually their story is buried with them. Thanks to the courtesy of

Alderman M'Dougall, I am enabled to sketch in brief the story of his father's career. Born on the banks of the Coldstream in the early part of the last century, he made his way first to Edinburgh, afterwards to Carlisle, and as a young man to Manchester, where he started life as a teacher, ultimately becoming headmaster at the Mechanics' Institution in Cooper Street. Being specially interested in chemistry, he made the acquaintance of Dr. John Dalton, under whom he continued his studies in that science. In later years he became closely associated with Dr. Joule and Dr. Angus Smith in many paths of experimental research. Leaving the Mechanics' Institution about 1837, he opened a private academy at Chorlton Hall, Rutland Street, C.-on-M., and a few years later removed to a house in Daisy Bank Road, Longsight, where he met with a large amount of success.

Amongst the pupils were, at least, two who in later years turned their attention to public work, and, as members of the City Council, have rendered many valuable services to the citizens. I refer to Alderman Hopkinson and Alderman Joseph Thompson, who, as boys, attended Mr. M'Dougall's school at Daisy Bank Road. About 1850 the school was disposed of, and Mr. M'Dougall commenced business as a manufacturing chemist in Water Street, devoting special attention to the manufacture of disinfectants, and in later years agricultural chemicals. As business developed it became increasingly necessary to secure increased accommodation for manufacturing and warehousing purposes. As this

was impossible in Water Street a move was made to Chadderton, and premises in Port Street were obtained for warehousing purposes. It is interesting to note in this connection that the first telephone between a Manchester building and one beyond the city boundary was erected for Messrs. M'Dougall by Messrs. David Moseley and Sons between their warehouse and works. About forty years ago the Messrs. M'Dougall entered upon another and a totally different branch of business. The Grammar School Mills were taken, corn milling was commenced, and very soon the new aërated flour and bread became familiar to Manchester people. The venture proved a success, and the business was transferred to the Poland Street Mills, where it is still carried on. Although the two businesses have been worked for forty years by the same firm, they have been kept entirely separate, there being no connection between except that of proprietorship. Alexander M'Dougall was, in course of time, joined by his sons, who have, since his retirement, carried on both businesses. He died at Southport at the advanced age of ninety-one. Several members of the family have rendered valuable services in municipal affairs. The father was for six years a member of the City Council for St. John's Ward. In this capacity he played a prominent part in the inauguration of our free library system. His son, Alexander, has been a member of the Council for over twenty-two years, and in that position, as well as a member of the Board of Guardians, has been untiring in his labour in the public interest. For that long period he has devoted

the whole of his time to public work. Equally valuable have been the services rendered as a member of the London County Council by his brother, John, who, as a recognition of the value of his work, has received the honour of knighthood.



GROSVENOR STREET, PICCADILLY.

Having traced the history of some of the streets on the one side of Piccadilly, let us now cross over that thoroughfare and note a few incidents and residents associated with Grosvenor Street, Gore Street, and Chatham Street. The first institution demanding notice is the place of worship known to most Manchester people as

ROBY'S CHAPEL.

A century ago the few residents of the Piccadilly district saw a new chapel arising in their midst. It belonged to the Independents, as the Congregationalists were then called. In 1795 the Rev. William Roby came from Wigan, and took charge of the Cannon Street Chapel. He soon became exceedingly popular, and a few years later it was decided to build a new chapel. As the town was gradually growing, it was wisely decided to build, if anything, in advance of the population, and a site situated a few yards away from Piccadilly was selected. As showing the character of the neighbourhood, we may say that although houses fringed one side of the main thoroughfare almost as far as the river bridge, open fields extended behind the fringe of houses, and where the London Road Station now is was open land, save where in Chapel Street and Swarbrick Street

a few houses had been erected. Near to where Store Street is, the road was carried over Shooter's Brook (then running open) by means of a bridge, the portion of the roadway leading down to which, on the one side was known as Shooter's Brow, and on the other Bank Top. The district round Grosvenor Street was in a state of development not as a business, but as a residential area. The new chapel, which was opened in December, 1807, is described by Aston as a large and very neat building, and the Sunday school, as "one of the places which a stranger, who interests himself in the well-being of the rising generation, ought not to omit the sight of, if he happens to be in Manchester on a Sunday." For twenty-two years Mr. Roby ministered to the congregation, who were attracted no less by his kindly demeanour and his religious fervour by his fine sermons. So universal was the respect in which he was held that when he died Miss M. J. Jewsbury, who lived in Grosvenor Street, Oxford Road, and who was a stranger to him, wrote some beautiful lines beginning, "I never knew him, but I knew his worth." Nor did he confine his energies to his own congregation. He devoted much time to the training of young men for the ministry, and there arose out of his efforts the Academy at Blackburn, which was the forerunner of the Lancashire Independent College at Whalley Range. He also formed missions at Jackson's Lane, Rusholme Road, and New Windsor, which developed into separate congregations who meet to-day in fine chapels.

The earlier mission services were conducted by lay

members of the Piccadilly congregation. Foreign missions found in him a steady supporter, and it was owing to his influence that Robert Moffatt devoted his life to the cause. As will be readily understood the congregation included many leading citizens. These included Samuel Brooks, the banker ; Benjamin Joule, brewer and father of Dr. Joule and J. St. B. Joule ; Alderman George Booth ; Thomas Wright, the prison philanthropist, and Edward Lewis, solicitor. Mr. Roby made a point of specially addressing the young at the evening service on the first Sunday in each year. He had done this in 1830, and at the close of the service was taken ill. He was carried home to his house in Aytoun Street. There he died a few years later in his sixty-fourth year.

Mr. Roby was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Fletcher, and in our own time the pulpit was occupied by the Rev. Thomas Willis, who was appointed in 1869. As a worker, Mr. Willis was a worthy successor of Mr. Roby, and during a long period of years he was intimately connected with many Liberal and educational movements in the city. Many members of the past and present congregation will be referred to in other connections, but one should be dealt with here, his life's work having been prompted by his Christian faith.

THOMAS WRIGHT.

Thomas Wright was born in Manchester, September 20, 1789, and received his education in a Sunday school. His mother, after attending the Cross Street Chapel

for many years, joined the Wesleyan body. The teachings of his mother's church does not seem to have impressed him very deeply, for as a young man he joined the Independents at Grosvenor Street, and for the remainder of his life remained an active member of that congregation, holding the position of deacon for half a century. He was apprenticed to an ironfounder, and an incident in connection with a fellow-worker turned his attention to the question of prison management. The fellow-worker was a discharged convict, and Wright deposited £20 as a guarantee that his fellow-workman would be of good behaviour. Owing to a misunderstanding the convict left the town, and being ordered to return Wright followed him, and brought him back. As a result of conversation he turned his attention to the condition and treatment of prisoners. He became a regular visitor to the Salford and other prisons, and did much to bring about a decided improvement in the manner in which prisoners were treated. Many on the completion of their sentences were provided with situations.

One whom he influenced for good obtained through Mr. Wright a post of scavenger under the Manchester Corporation, and in later years was ordained as a clergyman of the Church of England. The value of his work was so generally recognized that the Government offered Mr. Wright the position of travelling inspector of prisons at a salary of £800. The offer was declined, but in 1852 he accepted a testimonial of over £3,000 raised by public subscription. After this he gave up his situa-

tion, and devoted the whole of his time and energy to the improvement of the conditions of prisons, and the reclamation of criminals. His was a life of sacrifice, and that in the interests of a class hitherto neglected by most philanthropists. When he died on April 14, 1875, he was deeply mourned by all sections, but it was amongst the "submerged tenth," amongst the friendless and the poorest that he was most seriously missed. It is to be regretted that no portrait, bust or statue of Wright is in possession of the Corporation, but the Art Gallery is not without a reminder of one of the most unselfish and most Christlike of men. When the public subscription was on foot in 1852 a letter was forwarded to the Town Council by Mr. A. Megson which is worthy of reproduction. He said :—" I am instructed by Mr. Watts, of London, to communicate his desire to present to the town of Manchester a large picture entitled, "The Good Samaritan," which he exhibited, a short time ago, at the Royal Exhibition in London, and respectfully dedicated to Mr. Thomas Wright, the prison philanthropist of Manchester. Mr. Watts does not wish it to be accepted as a work of art, but a testimony of his high esteem for the exemplary and praiseworthy character of that humble individual."

A portrait of Mr. Wright may be seen in the Peel Park Museum ; and a well executed bust by the late Thomas Gregory is in the Museum, Vernon Park, Stockport.

A MEDICAL SCHOOL.

In 1850 a medical school was opened in the building standing at the corner of Grosvenor Street and Chatham Street, with an entrance from the latter street. The staff comprised some of the best-known medical men in the town. Practical and surgical anatomy was taken by A. W. Dumville, M.R.C.S. ; clinical medicine by M. A. Eason Wilkinson, M.D. ; the principles and practice of surgery by G. Southam, M.R.C.S. ; and demonstrations on regional anatomy were given by J. Whitehead, M.D. In succeeding years other well-known lecturers appeared on the staff, Mr. (afterwards Professor) Williamson, and Dr. (afterwards Sir) William Roberts among the number. An old student said of the school, " We had a brand new museum quite up to date, a good working laboratory under Stone, the chemist, and a commodious, well-supplied dissecting room. In my last year Dr. William Roberts was lecturer on physiology ; he had been for some years house surgeon to the Infirmary." The Mr. Stone referred to was Daniel Stone, F.C.S., who was at one time honorary secretary of the Mechanics' Institution. In 1856 there were about eighty students, and it had become a serious competitor with the Pine Street School. All improvements in the method of carrying on the work of the school were welcomed, and the lecturers were untiring in their efforts to make it successful in every respect. The syllabus of 1855-6 was, however, the last issued by the school as a separate institution, and before the

commencement of the next session it had been amalgamated with the Pine Street School. For five more years lectures were delivered under these auspices in the Chatham Street rooms, which were latterly entered by a new doorway opening into Grosvenor Street. In 1861 the Pine Street premises were extended, and the work concentrated under one roof, the Grosvenor Street rooms being abandoned.



CHATHAM STREET, PICCADILLY.

A POPULAR ACTOR AND MANAGER.

In the house, number 5, Chatham Street, there lived and died Mr. and Mrs. Ward, both popular players in London and the provinces a century ago. Mr. T. A. Ward, who was born in 1749, made his first appearance on the Manchester stage at the Marsden Street house in 1767. Mrs. Ward as Miss Hoare made her first appearance on the stage at Liverpool under Mr. Younger, and for many years was a rival of Mrs. Siddons. In 1782 Mr. and Mrs. Ward commenced an engagement at Drury Lane, from whence Mr. Ward returned to Manchester after a stay extending over two seasons. Mrs. Ward remained in London for some considerable time, appearing regularly with Mrs. Siddons and Miss Farren. In 1790, when the Theatre Royal in Spring Gardens was rebuilt after the fire, Mr. Ward, in partnership with Mr. Banks, assumed the management, but ten years later the latter retired, his place being taken by Mr. Bellamy, who in turn gave place to Charles Mayne Young. When in 1807 the patent was removed to the new theatre in Fountain Street Mr. Ward retired into private life, from which he seems to have again emerged in 1810 when he acquired the management of the new Theatre Royal, which position he retained until 1825.

As an actor he made his last appearance in April, 1811, when he played "Lord Ogleby" to Mrs. Ward's "Miss Sterling." This was one of the first appearances she made in the house where for five years she occupied the position of leading lady in the stock company. After retiring from theatrical life the pair settled down to a quiet life in Chatham Street, where Mr. Ward died in 1835, and his wife three years later, the one being 86 and the other 82 years of age. Their daughter married Gavin Hamilton, a surgeon who lived for some time at Portland Place. She died in 1860, aged 81 years. The three were interred in the family vault at Rusholme Road Cemetery. Whilst dealing with theatrical persons reference may be made to a building that once stood in Chatham Street, only a few yards away from the house of the Wards.

THE CIRCUS.

In May, 1793, Mr. Ward in connection with Mr. Banks built a circus in Chatham Street at a cost of a thousand pounds, and shortly afterwards it was opened at theatre prices. The best performers, together with first-class music and beautiful scenery, were provided, but after a short season the building was closed, the proprietors having sustained a heavy loss. In July, 1794, Mr. Handy, of the London arena, took the place for about a month, and was so successful that he returned a year later. On that occasion he made two interesting announcements. The first was to the effect that he paid to eleven members of his company the sum

of fifty-six pounds per week ; and the second was that in spite of this fact the prices for admission would be reduced to 2s., 1s., and 6d., prices lower than any he had exhibited for before. Mr. Handy was here again for three months in 1796, but in 1797 his company paid what proved to be its last visit to Chatham Street. After leaving here in October of the latter year they made a two months' stay at Liverpool, after which the whole company departed for Dublin. The company sailed in the *Viceroy*, the stud of twenty horses and a number of children accompanying them. Mr. Handy and one or two others remained behind to wind up their affairs, intending to follow by a later boat. The *Viceroy* was overtaken by a fearful storm during which it foundered. Every person on board was lost, no trace even of the vessel being left behind. After this, the circus seems to have been used but little until July, 1799, when performances there were conducted in conjunction with those at the theatre, the circus being opened on two nights and the theatre on three nights in the week. This only lasted for a short time, after which the building was closed until September, 1802, when it was opened under the management of Mr. Cooke, who was succeeded by Mr. Cimex. It was under the latter that a Manchester man made his first appearance before a Manchester audience.

ROBERT BRADBURY.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century a boy lived with his widowed mother in Half Street. The

churchyard wall on that side was very low, and the young hopeful would often take a piece of carpet from the house and spread it upon a tombstone that stood opposite the house. On this he would proceed to imitate the performances of tumblers and clowns he had seen. In this way commenced the career of one who at one time was considered to be equal to Grimaldi. As stated, he made his first appearance to a Manchester audience in 1802. In 1805 he, along with a member of the numerous family of Jones, undertook the management of the Chatham Street Circus, but the venture does not appear to have succeeded, and in 1808 the building was taken down to make room for dwelling houses.

There still survives in an old scrap-book a highly-coloured drawing of Mr. Bradbury's wonderful feat of the anvil as performed by him at the Royal Circus, London, and at the Chatham Street Circus. He is represented as lying down, his shoulders being on the seat of one chair whilst his heels rest upon another. On his chest is a smith's anvil, on which three brawny-armed men are playing with formidable-looking hammers. The drawing, though crude in execution, is an interesting reminiscence of a well-nigh forgotten place of amusement. In the house in which the Wards lived in Chatham Street there resided in late years a professor of music, who was, in addition, a composer of some note. His oratorio called "The Martyr of Antioch" was performed at the Theatre Royal in 1832, and met with an enthusiastic reception. A selection from it was included

in the list of works produced at Manchester's last Musical Festival.

TWO WELL-KNOWN PHYSICIANS.

For over eighty years the name of Bardsley was familiar to Manchester people in connection with medicine. In 1794, S. A. Bardsley was residing at the corner of Chatham Street and Piccadilly, and there he continued to reside and practise until 1827, when he removed into one of the fine houses, a few of which survive on Ardwick Green. For many years he was prominently connected with the Infirmary, where he rendered many valuable services. In this, as in other respects, he was excelled by his accomplished nephew, James L. Bardsley. James Bardsley, a native of Nottingham, studied medicine at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, at the latter of which he graduated M.D. in 1823. A year later he came to Manchester and joined his uncle at Chatham Street, and when the latter retired from the position of physician at the Infirmary, he was chosen his successor. In the same year he associated himself with Dr. Turner in connection with the School of Medicine, and was appointed lecturer on the principles and practice of physic, materia medica, and medical botany. In 1843 he retired from the position of honorary physician, and was appointed honorary consulting physician to the Infirmary, which position he held until his death, in 1876. In 1850 he was elected president of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, and was for a period the president of Manchester Institution for Diseases of the

Ear. In 1853 he received the honour of knighthood in recognition of his services to medical science. He was appointed a justice of the peace, and was a deputy-lieutenant for the County Palatine of Lancashire.

When Greenheys was still a country lane Dr. Bardsley removed to the house that formerly stood at the left-hand corner of Gore Street, and there he died on July 10, 1876, aged 75 years. Very few medical men who have practised in the city have attained to the high position in public estimation as did Sir James, and in this opinion as to his value the public were supported by his fellow-members of the medical profession. Two incidents in his career may be noted. When Joseph Jordan, the celebrated surgeon previously referred to, retired from the Mount Street School of Medicine he was entertained to dinner by the members of the profession. Dr. Holme presided, and on his right sat Mr. Jordan and Dr. Bardsley, a high honour for a man not yet 34 years of age. It may be noted that although the company included most of the medical men living in the town, the toast list comprised some thirty items. We are not told what was the condition of some of the guests at the close of the function. It is also worthy of note that when Miss Hall, in whose back garden at the corner of King Street and Brown Street there was a rookery less than a century ago, was lying on her deathbed she told him about the removal of the heads of Syddall and Deacon from the top of the Exchange, where they had been placed after the affair of 1745. The Halls were Jacobites, and two of Miss Hall's brothers

climbed to the roof of a coffee-house and from there reached the roof of the Exchange one dark night, removed the heads, and buried them in the King Street garden. Knowing that death was near, Miss Hall felt that she could no longer retain the secret, and told the story to Dr. Bardsley.



A PICCADILLY ARTIST.

HENRY LIVERSEEGE.

In bidding adieu to Piccadilly and its adjacent streets memory reminds us of two persons who were prominently associated with our thoroughfare. One of them, James Crossley, who lived in Booth Street, and at whose house the Chetham Society was called into being, will be dealt with in another connexion. The other person referred to is Henry Liverseege, who was born in Shepley Street, and died at Gore Street. He was therefore so closely associated with Piccadilly that some account of his short life, his wonderful promise, and his early death should be given. He was the son of poor parents, and was born on September 4, 1803. As a boy he was sent to a school kept by a schoolmaster named Edward Dodd, who used a garret in a house that formerly stood at the corner of Acton Street, London Road. As a boy he showed a natural taste for drawing, and although handicapped by ill-health and weakness, he persevered in his efforts, turning his attention to painting.

Some account of his appearance and physical disabilities should be given, as indicating the difficulties which faced him. One who knew him said of him : " His left shoulder was lower than its fellow ; the chest was prominent, arising, it was believed from spinal

curvature, and there ensued as a consequence asthma and pulmonic decay—in fact, one lung was for years inert, and was found after death to be a piece of solid muscle. He was below the average height, not exceeding 5 ft. 5 in., and withal much attenuated. At the age of 25 he only weighed 75 lb. His face frequently bore a pleasing expression. His complexion was pallid, saving a slight rosy tinge at times upon his cheeks, which under excitement would become flushed, giving strong evidence of incipient consumption. His hair was rather long and light, and was turned back from an ample, serene forehead. The lips were compressed, implying much firmness. The facial contour was rather sharp and well defined—well chiselled, to use an artistic phrase. His voice was pleasing, though thin and piercing. He was easy and gentle in deportment, though capable of resenting any ill-timed remark, rudeness, or familiarity; and as a friend he was kind, ardent, and sincere.” Such was the account of Liverseege given by George Richardson more than thirty years ago. As little more than a youth, he went to live with an uncle, John Green, of the firm of Sandford and Green, cotton spinners, of New Islington, and who resided near the mill, at No. 1, Sandford Street. Whilst there he did much in the painting of portraits in oils, achieving a large amount of success in producing lifelike pictures, which before the days of the camera was an exception rather than the rule. In this connexion mention should be made of the portrait of William Bradley now in the Peel Park collection. Like many other artists,

young Liverseege was in the earlier years of his career pleased to increase his small income by painting tavern signs. The first of these was done for Mr. Williams, who kept the *Saracen's Head*, Rochdale Road, and was painted on a flag weighing several hundredweight. Another one was painted on wood for a tavern known as the *Ostrich*, near Caroline Street, Canal Street. In this way he plodded along until 1827, when an interesting picture exhibition was held, which opened for him the door of fame.

A PICTURE EXHIBITION.

The first picture exhibition in connexion with the Royal Manchester Institution was held in 1827. The building in Mosley Street was in course of erection, consequently the exhibition was held in the shop then numbered 83, Market Street. As a first venture the movement was a success. Eighteen Manchester artists sent in seventy-one exhibits; and included amongst the exhibitors were such well-known names as Orme, Ralston, Joseph Richardson, Charles Calvert, M. P. Calvert, and Henry Liverseege. His contributions were three pictures having brigands for their subjects. In the catalogue they are numbered and named thus: No. 43, "Banditti attacking Robbers"; No. 56, "A Robber on the Outlook"; and No. 73, "Banditti Carousing." It is curious that all trace of the whereabouts of these early specimens of our artist's work has been lost. Following these pictures were two which showed signs of develop-

ment. They depicted "Don Quixote reading a Letter," and a scene from Scott's *Antiquary*.

The Earl of Wilton, then residing at Heaton Park, was struck with the high degree of merit attaching to Liverseege's work, and purchased a picture representing Adam Woodcock, the well-known character in Scott's novel, *The Abbot*. This led to a wider fame and a greater demand for the artist's work, and in a few years he sent pictures to the Royal Academy and the British Institution. These were hung and produced a favourable impression upon London collectors. Fame was assured, and a successful career lay before the artist, when death overtook him. He died on January 13, 1832, and was interred in the graveyard attached to the old St. Luke's Church, Rutland Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. When the present church was built by Robert Gardner as a memorial to his wife, the artist's remains were exhumed and were reinterred under pew sixty-one leading to the chancel of the church. A brass plate was placed in position, recording that "Beneath this spot lies the body of Henry Liverseege," and on the left wall of the east end of the chancel was placed a white marble tablet with the inscription, "Henry Liverseege, painter, born at Manchester, September 4, 1803, where he died January 13, 1832, is buried in this church. He cultivated his innate love of painting in defiance of adverse circumstances and a feeble frame. Life was to him a school for the earnest study of his art in the subjects of romance and humour, to which his genius inclined. Death overtook him as he passed from scholar into master.

Some of his townsmen, who in the pictures he has left recognize his genius and lament the death that left such promise unfulfilled, have raised this stone to his memory June, 1863." Thus closed a career which at one time glowed with such glorious promise.

SOME OF HIS SUBJECTS.

In several of his pictures Liverseege used as subjects persons who were well known to the townsmen of eighty years ago. Thus in his picture of Falstaff and Bardolph, a blacksmith, whose smithy stood at the end of Tib Street, where Rylands' warehouse now stands, sat for the fat knight. In "The Weekly Register" the cobbler, who is reading Cobbett's paper, represents James Hind, a shoemaker, who was in business in Minshull Street, and afterwards in a small shop numbered 14, Portland Street. Thomas Shepherd, who lived at 61, Bradford Street, Ancoats, and whose acquaintance Liverseege made during his residence at New Islington, sat for a number of characters. We find him as the porter in "The Inquiry," the indecisive individual in "Good Resolution," the stout gravedigger in the graveyard scene from *Hamlet*, the grandfather in the two pictures so named, the central figure in "The Ghost Story," and Edie Ochiltree in the picture from the *Antiquary*.

Another friend, William Yeomans, who lived at Allum Street, Ancoats, and whose brother kept a school at 36, Back Piccadilly, sat for "Friar Tuck," for the other gravedigger in the *Hamlet* scene, for Hudibras

in "Hudibras and Rapho in the Stocks." George Nimmo, who carried on business as a basket maker at 40, Lever Street, is represented in the figure in dark attire in "The Ghost Story"; the painter's sister by the kneeling girl in "The Benediction," and a friend of his sister's, Miss M'Leod, sat for Sweet Anne Page. It is also stated that Charles Swain, the Manchester poet, was his model for the falconer in "The Betrothed."

On one occasion we are told that, wishing for some one to represent a drunken tinker, he came across a drink-loving cobbler who would probably meet the case. A bargain was struck, and the subject was supplied with bottle after bottle of liquor without producing any appreciable effect. At length Liversidge dismissed him in a rage, saying, "Be off; it will cost more to make you drunk than the picture will fetch. One picture, "Little Red Riding Hood," painted whilst in London, was seen and admired by Sir Edwin Landseer, who, in response to a request, gave it a few finishing touches. In 1832 a series of thirty-seven engravings of his pictures was published, and in 1875 George Richardson edited a second edition of the series, to which he prefixed a memoir.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART I.

Although not able to boast of a record dating back to the Romans, or even to the Normans, no street in the city has a history so intensely interesting as that possessed by Market Street. Four hundred years ago we assume that it had an existence, because we find references to it in the Court Leet records of half a century later, and those references seem to point to it as an important thoroughfare to the little community. I shall therefore refer to some of those entries, inasmuch as they throw side-lights upon the life of the Manchester people of those days.

The Court met on March 29, 1554, that being the first year of "Our Sovereign Lady Queen Mary," and amongst other business considered the condition of the Market Street of the period. Their resolution furnishes quaint reading for us, acquainted as we are with the condition of its pavement. It ran thus:—"The jury order that none of the inhabitants of the town of Manchester, nor foreigners, shall break no yearthe in the Market Stede Lane, to make no dobe, nor for no

other use." The foreigners were all who were non-residents in the town, yearthe was the ancient spelling of earth, and by dobe was meant the clay which played so important a part in the building and repair of the black and white houses which in those days formed the town, but are now so rare. As described on a previous occasion, the clay was usually obtained from the daub-holes or other pits on the outskirts of the town. Some persons, however, appear to have found that it was much easier to dig the clay or earth they required for repairing purposes from the street in front of their doors, which was of course quite unpaved.

PIGSTIES AND MIDDENS.

When the Court next met, another feature of life in Market Stede Lane occupied the attention of the jury. After appointing three officers to see that the order previously referred to was carried out, the Court passed the following order :—" The jury order that all middens betwixt the conduits and the——, in Market Stede Lane, lying in the street, and in all the streets in the town where any middens be, and also all swine-cotes (pig-stys) lying to the high street, to be taken away afore the 1st June next, and no more to be laid there, and no more cotes to be set up thereafter." The penalty in case of non-compliance with the order was a fine of five shillings. On other occasions the Court had the matter up for their consideration, and orders were given that all such erections should be confined to the back part of the premises. These seem to have been disregarded, and

in 1567 we read that " Jone late wife of Thomas Jacsonne deceased " was concerned in a " dunghill lying in the Market Stead Lane." She was ordered to remove it and to make in its place a causeway, with a channel, three feet wide, down the centre. This seems to point, to the dunghill having stood at the end of some lane leading into Market Stead Lane, and as William Radclyffe was the complainant and owned the house on the one side of the nuisance, the situation would probably be somewhere near to where the Exchange steps are to-day.

MUD WALLS AND STILES.

Robert Holme resided in the Lane in 1563, and in the records his name appears from time to time. Thus we find he was concerned in the obstruction of a water course in 1557, in 1561 he was reported as having repaired certain houses in the Lane, but as having neglected to repair a mud wall ; and two years later it was reported that a mud wall which enclosed his barns and other outbuildings was in need of repair. The situation of Mr. Holme's farm is denoted by other entries in the records. In 1555 the jury ordered that " Thomas Trafford, gentleman, do make and set two steles (stiles), namely, a stile leading from the highway called Market Stede Lane into a field called the Brick Croft ; and another stile to lead the way from the Brick Croft aforesaid to a lane or footway now in the holding of Robert Holme, gentleman," and, further, that " the said Robert Holme make another stile forth of the

said lane, leading to a place called Doube Hole." Mr. Holme appears to have lived somewhere near the site of the *Royal Hotel*, and from the upper portion of his holding was the lane leading to the Daub-holes, which stood where the Infirmary esplanade is. The other lane appears to have run in the direction of Mosley Street, possibly leading to a retired hamlet or fold of which we have occasional mention. This was known as Labrey's Fold. It consisted of a few thatched cottages that stood, surrounded by gardens, somewhere near to where Mosley Street crosses York Street to-day, and was probably approached by the lane in which Thomas Trafford was ordered to fix a stile.

THE CONDUIT AND AN OPEN DITCH.

The conduit has been previously mentioned. It stood in the Market Place, near the cross, and was supplied with water from the springs that formerly existed in the vicinity of Spring Gardens and Fountain Street. The water was conveyed down Market Stede Lane by means of pipes, the whole of which was done at the expense of Isabella Beck, widow of Roger Beck, who was granddaughter of Roger Bexwick, brother-in-law of John Bradford, the Manchester martyr. Not only was the town's principal water supply thus conveyed down the lane, but there also ran down one side of the lane an open ditch. This ran down the lane, through the Market Place, past the booths, and emptied itself into the Hanging Ditch, which there ran open. In 1590 we read that "William Radclyffe, in cleansing

the ditch in the Market Stid Lane, hath laid the same earth in the causeway so that the carts thereby have been constrained to go over the new-mended causeway, and by that means have spoiled the same, to the griefs and great charges of the neighbours and all other honest passengers." Master Radclyffe appears to have contented himself with removing the accumulated refuse from the ditch, leaving it on the newly repaired cartway, thus compelling carts to encroach upon the footway. The order was that the earth be removed within twelve days on a penalty of five shillings.

Many persons are inclined to think that under the Court Leet men built as they thought proper, regardless of any building line. This is evidently erroneous, as in 1586 complaint was made that "One Thomas Baylie hath encroached into the Market Stid Lane, near to the way which leadeth to Labrey's house," and several other similar references are to be found in the records. Leaving the sixteenth century references to our thoroughfare we will refer to an entry under date 1612, as denoting somewhat the value of land thereabouts in the days of the early Stuart period. In that year John Hunt leased a "messuage situated in or near a certain street called Market Stead Lane, and one barn and three closes lying near to and belonging to the said messuage or dwelling-house."

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY LAND VALUE.

The fields connected with the house were named the Great Meadow, the Brick Kiln Meadow, the Kiln Field,

and the House Field, and the whole contained ten acres of land or thereabouts. The whole were leased by John Hunt to Robert Lever, of Darcy Lever, for the period of twenty-one years, the consideration paid by the latter being the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, together with an annual rental of twenty shillings. A short time after making the said lease John Hunt died, and he left instructions that the lease might be renewed for a period of one hundred years, to date from Christmas, 1632, at an annual rental of ten shillings. No reason is assigned for a reduction of the annual rent, and the tenants of the modern highly rented shops will envy Robert Lever his good fortune in obtaining ten acres of Market Street land on the terms named.

MARKET STREET IN 1650.

The earliest authentic plan of Manchester bears date 1650, and a glance at it is of the greatest interest. The lane is depicted as being fringed on both sides with houses, extending from the Market Place to a point near to High Street, then unmade, on the one side; and a little beyond that point on the opposite side. Mr. Lever's house, which occupied the site of the State Café, is represented as being beyond the town, surrounded by fields. Radcliffe Hall, the residence of William Radcliffe, referred to above, stood in the midst of gardens and orchards just behind where the *Evening News* office stands, and behind the houses on the

opposite side of the lane was the cockpit, which was approached by a short field road, marked to-day by Cockpit Hill. The whole of the houses in the lane had gardens behind them.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART II.

IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

We can obtain a very good idea as to the appearance of Market Street in the middle of the eighteenth century by a glance at Casson and Berry's plans. We have no means of verifying those plans, but there is every reason for regarding them as being a correct representation of the town as it was when those enterprising individuals entered upon their undertaking. In those plans the Exchange is represented as standing on a site now represented by a portion of the street. It faced a portion of the area covered by the present Exchange, with its back towards the church. Passing up the street the first opening on the left-hand side was one somewhere near to where New Cannon Street now opens out. This does not appear to have been a thoroughfare, as it led only to a few gardens, which extended as far as the line of the present Cannon Street. The last-named street, then known as Hunter's Lane, was a short cul de sac, beyond which fields extended in the direction of the newly-formed Church Street.

Another cul-de-sac thoroughfare ran alongside Mr. Dickenson's house, and in it was situated a small chapel,

erected by that gentleman. High Street was built up as far as Turner Street, but Mr. Lever's house was still in the country, with fields covering the site of the Infirmary. Crossing over Market Street Lane, as it was then called, we find that houses extended from where the *Royal Hotel* stands to the Market Place. The only thoroughfares met with in the whole length were Spring Gardens and Brown Street. For the convenience of foot passengers a narrow covered passage gave access to Pool Fold, now Cross Street, and where Exchange Street is was a row of low buildings, through the lower portion of which were narrow, dark covered passages leading from the Market Place to St. Ann's Square.

THE PALACE.

The houses forming Market Street Lane were principally of the black and white order, interspersed with a few more substantially-built stone mansions. Of two of these, views have survived. One was the residence of Mr. Dickenson. It stood on a plot of land situated between Palace Street and Palace Square. It served as the town house of the Dickensons of Birch, and when the Pretender was here in 1745 he was entertained there by Mr. John Dickenson. On this account it was afterwards known as the Palace, and when it ceased to be used as a private residence it was converted into an inn with the name of the *Palace Inn*. Later still it was pulled down, and the pile of buildings known as Palace Buildings, recently demolished, was erected on the site. The mansion of 1745 was a plain erection,

standing some little distance away from the street, with a garden in front. Alongside the street was a low wall, surmounted by plain iron railings. The substantial gate posts were for many years to be seen at the entrance to the drive approaching the houses that stood in the Polygon, Stockport Road, and are now in the grounds of Birch Hall. The Palace was a two-storeyed building, with two windows on either side of the front door. The roof was flat, and along the front ran an ornamental stone wall.

A near neighbour of Mr. Dickenson's was Mr. Marsden, who built most of the property in the Square bearing his name. His house, which faced Market Street Lane, was somewhat ornate. Standing back a little distance from the street it was approached by a flight of nine broad steps. The railings enclosing the area were ornamental. The front of the house, which was three storeys high, was decorated with four massive fluted pillars reaching to the cornice. On the flat roof were four life-sized figures, and from the central portion rose a small cupola surmounted by a flagstaff. The house was in remarkable contrast to the plainness of the Palace, and reminds us of the time when wealthy men lived in Market Street Lane.

Where the Swan Court is to-day was formerly the *Higher Swan* coaching house and stables. Before the days of the stage coach it had been a licensed house known as the *Saracen's Head*. Where Woolley's shop is was a house to which was attached a stable and a field used for grazing purposes. It was of tolerable

extent, for it extended to the gardens of the Marsden Square houses. The whole was let for an annual rental of £5. The field was afterwards converted into a brick-croft, and later still was built upon.

The street of those days was of irregular width, some parts at the bottom end being very narrow, but near High Street it was almost its present width. There existed, however, in the wider portion a state of things which it is very difficult for us to understand. From the front of Mr. Dickenson's house to the entrance to High Street there was a pond known as the Horse Pool, where carters stopped to water their horses. Another feature of the street was the stream dignified by some writers as the river Tib, which until 1783 ran open.

THE RIVER TIB.

The source of the stream was a spring that rose in a field adjoining a farmhouse that stood near to where St. George's School stands. It ran in the direction of Newton Lane, near where it turned to the right, running parallel with that thoroughfare until New Cross was reached. Thence it ran through fields until it crossed Market Street Lane, and after following a winding course it joined the Medlock near to Old Garratt. For the convenience of traffic flags were laid over the stream at the top of Market Street Lane. Alongside the stream in its course from Newton Lane, now known as Oldham Road, was a pleasant footpath, shaded in one portion by trees which probably gave the name to Oak Street. The footpath is marked now by Tib Street We are

told that the stream was often a source of trouble by overflowing its banks. This was tolerated until 1783, when it was culverted over. The story is told that on one occasion the cellars of houses near the top of the street were flooded for three days by an obstruction getting into the stream during rainy weather. Investigation proved the obstruction to be a cabbage. Before the century closed the stream had ceased to be anything more than a name to the residents.

THE RESIDENTS IN 1772.

According to the first Manchester directory there were resident in the lane in 1772 some eighty-five families. These represented forty-three occupations, most of which are familiar to-day. Some are not so familiar, as for instance that of snag maker and patten maker. There was a boarding-school for young ladies, kept by Miss Fowler, at the top of the street ; and in the street there resided two surgeons, one of whom was Charles White, the first medical man connected with the Infirmary, and who afterwards removed to the house that occupied the site of the Reference Library. In those days the houses and shops were not numbered, and it is therefore sometimes difficult to locate the places where persons lived. There was a firm of tea dealers and bankers, whose business was the foundation upon which was built one of the best known of Manchester banking concerns. I refer to James Jones and Son, who carried on business opposite to the Market Place, and out of whose concern arose Loyd's bank in King

Street. There were ten inns in the lane known variously as the *Fountain*, the *Anchor*, the *Cock*, the *Upper Swan*, the *Bear's Paw*, the *Royal Oak*, the *Flying Horse*, the *Pack Horse*, the *Bellman*, and the *Lower Swan*.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART III.

THE STREET BEFORE WIDENING.

In the last chapter reference was made to the row of houses and shops that formerly stood where Exchange Street opens into what was formerly a portion of the Market Place, and through which narrow, dark passages gave access for vehicles and foot passengers to St. Ann's Square. Manchester's first street improvement consisted in the removal of this property and the making of Exchange Street. Considering the small extent of the town in 1775, this was a serious undertaking. An opportunity for giving some account of the occupants of some of the houses, and also of the improvement, will occur when dealing with the Market Place. For the present we are concerned in the matter inasmuch as it was then deemed unnecessary to interfere with Market Stead Lane, which was pronounced to be too wide to require any alteration. Therefore it was, that it remained for nearly another half century unchanged. Let us endeavour now to realize what nature of street it was that satisfied our forefathers. In the first place, the building line was not uniform on either side of the street. At the corner of the Market Place the street was only

about five yards wide from building to building, the footpath not exceeding two feet wide on either side. At the entrance to Pool Fold the buildings stood a little further back, and gave a width of about nine yards, but a few yards further up the width again fell to five yards. At Cromford Court it became wider again, and at Brown Street it was fourteen yards wide. The width gradually increased, and at Marsden Square it was its present width, twenty-one yards. The buildings at the south-east corner of High Street encroached so much as to reduce the width considerably, and the full width was not again attained until the top was reached. Not only was the width a varying quantity, but the direction was tortuous. Just past Cromford Court there was a bend to the right, and there were other deviations of lesser importance before the top was reached. The result can be shown by an illustration. As we stand to-day at the corner of the Market Place we can see not only to the top of the street, but also some of the buildings facing Piccadilly. Standing at the corner of the Market Place in 1821, the entrance to Cross Street was the limit of view, the gradual bend of the street and encroachment of buildings accounting for the limitation. From the corner of Ducie Place, now absorbed in the Exchange site, the eye could see as far as Pool Street. In addition to this the elevations varied considerably, and the paving was in a worse condition than will be found in most back streets of the city of to-day. The buildings were nearly all old, many of them belonging to the black and white style of architecture. A few of the latter will

be specially noted later on. Overhanging gables, small window panes, and narrow doorways were familiar features of the Market Street of 1821. Having thus briefly described the street as a whole, let us now make our way up the left-hand side of the street to the top, and, crossing over, return on the other side, noting, on our way, a few of the residents of the street.

SOME WELL-KNOWN RESIDENTS.

Turning out of the Market Place there stood at the corner of the shop of Fawsitt and Sade, silversmiths, whose principal window faced into the Market Place. In it there were no fewer than eighty small panes of glass. The entrance to the shop was at the corner, up two steps, the door being of the usual small size. It is well to remember that the corner of the building is not represented by the corner of Messrs. Beaty's premises. When the widening operations were commenced the buildings hereabouts were the first to be pulled down, and the building line was put back fifteen yards at the corner. The silversmith's shop door facing into the Market Place stood, therefore, on a spot more than half-way across the present Market Street. This gives some additional idea of the greatness of the undertaking decided upon in 1821. Passing along the narrow footpath, we pass two shops occupied by two gunmakers, both well known in the town for the quality of their work. Two doors from the Market Place was the shop of Thomas Conway, gun, pistol, and cross-bow maker, and at No. 6 Thomas Styant, gunmaker, carried on business. At the Old

Manchester Exhibition of 1904 a pistol tinder box made by him was exhibited. The pistol tinder box was a substitute for the more primitive flint and steel, the friction of steel and flint being produced by the adoption of the pistol trigger and spring. Styan's was one of a group of four half-timbered houses of plain design, but with overhanging gables. A well-known chemist at No. 10, between the shops of William Atkinson, auctioneer, and that of Joseph Andrew, grocer, Daniel Lynch, carried on business as a chemist and druggist. He commenced business in 1790, and remained in the one shop until the alterations compelled removal to the premises next door to the *Commercial Hotel* higher up the street, where, as Lynch and Bateman, the business was so well known until the removal to Brown Street a few years ago. Mr. Lynch belonged to the old type of chemists who acted also as apothecaries. He was appointed one of the visiting apothecaries in connexion with the Infirmary, and, being in business prior to the Act of 1815, he was allowed to visit patients. He was an active Freemason, and attained to the position of Deputy Grand Master of the Freemasons of the Manchester district. He died in 1836, aged sixty-nine. At a point just beyond Lynch's shop the opening out of Corporation Street was made some years later.

In the Manchester Directory for 1788 we find an entry : " Arkwright, Sir Richard, cotton twist warehouse, Cromford Court." Much of the land hereabouts belonged to Arkwright, who some years before had built the first cotton mill erected in Manchester. In 1771 he had

purchased a large plot of land, and had erected a cotton mill at Cromford, Derbyshire. This fact probably led him to call the approach to his warehouse Cromford Court. Sir Richard had as neighbour and tenant a gentleman whose son afterwards became famous in the world of letters. The firm of Quincey and Duck occupied the shop that stood at the corner of Cromford Court, where they carried on business as importers of Irish linen. As the retail trade had been abandoned in 1783 they were, in 1788, engaged purely in the wholesale. The linen merchant was born in 1754, and settled in Manchester in 1780. In 1788 he resided at Moss Side, but soon afterwards built a house, to which he gave the name of Greenhay, and from which the place name of Greenheys is derived. Thomas Quincey died of consumption at Greenhay on July 18, 1793, at the early age of thirty-eight. Few passages in literature are more impressive than that in which his talented son described the home-coming of his dying father. Further reference to Thomas de Quincey must be deferred for the present.

AN OLD BOOKSELLING FIRM.

In all probability the next tenant after Quincey at the corner of Cromford Court was James Thomson, who, in 1790, was located there as a bookseller. In 1810 the shop was divided into two, and the name of the firm became James Thomson and Son, his son Ebenezer having been admitted to partnership. The shop was a lock-up one, the father residing at Garden Lane, Cheet-ham, and the son at New Windsor, Salford. Five years

later the shop was restored to its original dimensions. The father had retired to what is described as Cheetham Cottage Town Red Bank, in those days a pleasant country retreat. Some years later the firm became E. Thomson and Son, and later still J. and J. Thomson. When the street was widened they retained possession of their premises, and when the street was renumbered their shop became number 39. The business was known far beyond the limits of the town, and in 1829 the firm issued a catalogue containing the titles of 20,000 volumes and occupying 600 pages. Whilst dealing in books, new and second-hand, connected with every branch of literature, they paid special attention to technical books relating to mechanics.

In 1822 the entrance to Cromford Court was a covered one, there being no through communication for vehicles from the Market Place to Palace Street. At this point the widening operations only very slightly affected the buildings on this side of the street. Whereas the buildings at the corner of the Market Place had suffered to the extent of fifteen yards, hereabouts not more than a foot was removed, and a few doors higher up no pulling down was necessary. The scene of operations was removed to the other side of the street, where the area of demolition had increased from about half a yard at the corner of Ducie Place to fifteen yards opposite the opening to Cromford Court. From this point to the corner of Spring Gardens the greater changes were made on the right-hand side, only very minor changes being needed on the left-hand side.

THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART IV.

AN OLD-ESTABLISHED CHEMIST'S SHOP.

Next door to Thomson's bookshop was a chemist and druggist's business, which for forty years was conducted by a succession of proprietors. In 1794 George Buxton Brown was the occupier, and he was succeeded early in the last century by William Wilson. The next knight of the pestle was John Stocks, who had previous to 1822 conducted a business in Thomas Street, and who later took into partnership William Dentith, the firm becoming Stocks and Dentith. After the death of Mr. Stocks the firm became Dentith and Company, but early in the thirties the business was sold to Horatio Miller. Miller was a man of social and literary tastes, and forming many friendships with literary and dramatic notabilities, his bachelor rooms soon became the resort of actors and authors.

In common with most of the Market Street shopkeepers seventy years ago, he lived on the premises, and the room over the shop was the scene of many pleasant gatherings. Amongst those who would meet on such occasions were H. B. Peacock, who in later years was associated with the Prince's Theatre; Charles

Swain, the poet ; Serjeant Wilkins, the famous barrister ; Charles Calvert and William Bradley, the artists ; and Andrews, the actor. The retail drug trade did not apparently appeal very strongly to Miller, for he relinquished it in early life, and became a partner in a brewing concern in Salford. Several of the apprentices who learned their business in the shop should be mentioned. One was a son of the Rev. Dr. Warren, and brother of Samuel Warren, Q.S., author of *Ten Thousand a Year*. He afterwards entered the service of a firm of London merchants trading with the Isthmus of Darien, where he died. A second one was Henry Blaine, the son of a Hull draper, who afterwards went to the Cape of Good Hope, where he founded an important business, and became the Hon. Henry Blaine, member of the Upper House of Legislature at the Cape. Another one was J. T. Slugg, the son of a Wesleyan minister, who was for many years in business in Stretford Road. He was somewhat of an antiquary, had literary tastes, and was a successful lecturer of the telescope and kindred subjects. He wrote his *Reminiscences of Manchester Fifty Years ago* for the *City News*, and it was afterwards published in book form.

JEREMIAH GARNETT.

Jeremiah Garnett was born at Wharfside, Otley, in 1793. His father, William Garnett, was a paper manufacturer. At the age of twenty-one Jeremiah came to Manchester and became connected with journalistic work by entering the office of *Wheeler's Chronicle*, for

which newspaper he reported the Peterloo meeting of 1819. He did not remain with the *Chronicle* very much longer, for on May 5, 1821, he published at the shop, 28a, Market Street, then at the corner of New Cannon Street, the first number of the *Manchester Guardian*. The office was afterwards removed to the opposite side of the street to a shop that occupied the site of Sharp and Scott's present shop. Mr. Garnett took a leading part in many public movements. He worked assiduously for the incorporation of the city, and for a few months sat in the Council as representative of St. Ann's Ward. He continued his active connection with the *Guardian* until 1861. He died in 1870 in his seventy-seventh year.

JOHN EDWARD TAYLOR.

The second name that will ever be associated with the history of the *Manchester Guardian* is that of John Edward Taylor, the son of a Unitarian minister, born at Ilminster in 1791. Intended originally for the medical profession, he was apprenticed to a Manchester manufacturer, and in 1815 he was in business as a fustian manufacturer. His father, who had left the Unitarians and joined the Society of Friends, resided in Islington Street, Salford, the son living next door until 1829, when he removed to the Crescent. The question of education found in him a strong advocate, and before the completion of his twentieth year he was appointed hon. secretary of the Lancasterian School. The Liberal newspaper of those days was *Cowdroy's Manchester*

Gazette, and by 1816 young Taylor had become a regular contributor to its columns. His description of the events that led up to Peterloo, and his calm but trenchant criticisms, distinguished him as possessing in a marked degree the qualities necessary for success in journalism.

He, however, became involved in a law suit, in which he defended himself against an action for libel tried at Lancaster in March, 1819. His success prompted some of his friends to urge upon him the importance of his commencing a new weekly newspaper, and the outcome was the founding of the *Manchester Guardian*. Seven years later he was involved in another law case, in which he sought to recover damages from the proprietor of the *Manchester and Salford Advertiser* for certain libels published. Again he was victorious, obtaining a verdict of £450 damages. For 23 years he continued to be the proprietor and principal editor of the *Guardian*. He died at the early age of 52. The incorporation of the town found in him a strong advocate, and he was elected a member of the Municipal Council at the first election of 1838. He sat as Councillor for St. Ann's Ward until his death, being twice re-elected without opposition.

As already stated, the marked journalistic ability displayed by Mr. Taylor, followed by his splendid defence in the libel action tried at Lancaster in 1819, led to the commencement of the *Manchester Guardian*. Ten gentlemen each subscribed £100 towards the expense of launching the venture, they insisting that in

case of failure, Taylor should be free from liability for the money lost, whereas in case of success he was to treat the money as loans and pay it off as he could. The venture was a success from the first. Not that the paper or its circulation represented the paper of to-day. At first it was a four-paged sheet published weekly on Saturdays at a charge of sevenpence. Nearly ten years later its weekly circulation was only 5,144 copies, but small as the total appears to us, it far exceeded the figures connected with any of its four contemporaries.

The *Guardian* was incorporated with the *British Volunteer* in 1825, the title becoming *Manchester Guardian and British Volunteer*. This did not last very long, and the original name was resumed. It is curious also to note that when the paper was first issued, one of the agents appointed to receive advertisements was Thomas Sowler, who carried on business in St. Ann's Square, and who in 1825 commenced the *Manchester Courier*. In this connection a story may be told which illustrates the amenities of journalism eighty years ago. On one occasion, when political feeling ran high, and the opposing journals produced criticisms of each other, such as would not be published now, a friend called on Garnett and told him that Tom Sowler had been on the Exchange inquiring for him. Garnett replied, "He shall not have to inquire long for me," and putting on his hat he walked down the street to the Exchange. Failing to find Sowler there he made his way to St. Ann's Square, where he paced backwards and forwards

along the pavement in front of Sowler's shop. In a short time Sowler and his son appeared and the pair attacked Garnett. The father held him whilst the son thrashed him with a walking stick. Garnett was, however, a man of great physical strength, and in the end the Sowlers had the worst of the encounter. As a further result both were summoned for assault and Garnett obtained a verdict. He intervened on behalf of the defendants, and they were thus spared the degradation attendant on imprisonment. Such were the amenities of journalism in the early days of the *Manchester Guardian*.

WOOLLEY'S.

Of the few firms who have a century long connection with Market Street that known as James Woolley, Sons, and Company, Limited, is perhaps the most familiar with the present generation. In 1796 R. H. Hargreaves commenced business in a shop forming only a portion of the present establishment as a druggist, dry-salter, oil dealer, and colour manufacturer, and for nearly fifty years he continued to be the proprietor, living part of the time on the premises, and afterwards in King Street and Ardwick Green. In 1844 the business was purchased by James Woolley, who after serving an apprenticeship with Samuel Dean, a druggist on Piccadilly, had commenced business in a shop in King Street. He had also opened another shop at 30, Great Ducie Street. Having secured the Market Street business he proceeded to develop and extend it. In course

of time a second shop was added, and at later periods other additions were made at the rear of the premises. To-day the wholesale business is conducted in the warehouse at Victoria Bridge, the shop being confined to the retail trade.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART V.

JAMES WEATHERLEY, THE BOOKSELLER.

Few Manchester booksellers have had more interesting careers than that of "Old Weatherley," as he was generally called. He was born in 1794, and as a child of nine was sent to work in a cotton mill. For thirteen years he worked in cotton factories and dyehouses. The conditions of labour were extremely hard in those days, and the hours unreasonably long. He would leave home at four in the morning in order to get to the factory in time to oil the machinery before five o'clock when the engines were started. There was a short stoppage for dinner, but usually breakfast and tea had to be taken whilst working, and the mill stopped at nine, except on Saturdays when work would often cease at seven o'clock. In spite of his circumstances Weatherley had cultivated the acquaintance of books; and work being scarce he decided to try his luck as a dealer in secondhand books. All his spare money had been spent in the purchase of books, and putting these with a few volumes given by friends into a wheel barrow, he made his way to the Market Place, whence he set

these out for sale on a table. This was on July 19, 1817. His sales on the first day amounted to eighteen shillings. Thus launched on his new career he found in the course of a few weeks that he could no longer carry his stock home in a wheelbarrow, for he commenced buying as well as selling. He therefore rented a lock-up stall. Before the year was out he bought the stock of Mr. Slack, of Salford, who had published amongst other books an edition of *Tim Bobbin*, and a few months later he made a fortunate purchase at Hope Hall.

In 1820 he rented a cellar in Market Street near to the corner of the present Cross Street. When the site was required for widening purposes, the tenants were asked to send in their claims for compensation for disturbance. *Jimmy* made a claim for £200. As his handwriting was wretchedly bad he got Mr. Joseph Robinson, schoolmaster, of George Street, Salford, to write out the claim for him. As Mr. Robinson was an expert in handwriting, Weatherley was complimented on the production when he appeared before the Commissioners, over whom "Quaker" Holt presided. About a week later Charles Aubrey, the clerk to the Commissioners, called upon him and offered sixty pounds to settle the claim. Weatherley rejected the offer, and the sum was raised to eighty pounds, and he was told that if that was not accepted the case would go before a jury. Deciding to accept, he was offered a paper to be signed. He felt that his reputation as a splendid calligrapher was doomed; but making the excuse that his right

hand had been sprained, he signed the document with his left. By this means, he says, "I saved my credit." He now removed to 35, Market Street, two doors from Swan Court. After this his success waned, and he took a small shop that stood at the corner of Store Street in London Road. His next move was to Exchange Arcade, and later he went to John Dalton Street, where he set up a stall. Advancing years, exposure to all weathers, and the drinking habit hastened his end. He died in poverty, his funeral expenses being defrayed by his brother booksellers.

At number 39, the Swan coach office was a well-known landmark. The building encroached upon the narrow footpath to such an extent, that when a stage coach was drawn up only about two feet of space remained between the side of the coach and the wall of the building. The stables were behind, and Swan Court marks the approach to them. Eighty years ago the Royal Mail coaches for Sheffield and Lincoln, and for Chester and Holyhead, left the *Swan Inn*, the former at 9.45 a.m. daily, and the latter at 1.15. In addition to these a number of ordinary passenger coaches made the *Swan* their centre. The names of some of these vehicles are worthy of note. The Union coach ran to Accrington, the Eclipse to Birmingham, the Doctor to Bradford and Halifax, the Independent to Carlisle and Glasgow, the Silkworm, very appropriately, to Congleton viâ Stockport, Bullock's Smithy, and Macclesfield, the Lancaster Doctor to Lancaster and Kendal, the Regulator to Leeds and Dewsbury,

the True Briton to Leeds and Huddersfield, the Trafalgar to Liverpool, the Royal Regulator and the Independent to London, the Nettle to Shrewsbury, the Lord Exmouth to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in addition to a number of un-named coaches. In all about twenty coaches left the inn daily, and as about the same number arrived matters were lively there eighty years ago.

Immediately before and for some little time after the introduction of the railway system business was even more flourishing, no fewer than five London coaches either starting from or calling at the inn daily in addition to as many arrivals. These included the well-known Peveril of the Peak and the Red Rover. The former was for a long time the fastest coach on the road, having only three coachmen for the journey instead of the usual number, five. Its handsome piebald horses were well known, and with Watmough on the box the pace was a good one. The sign over the door of the *Peveril of the Peak* public-house in Chepstow Street was painted to celebrate its first journey, when it was drawn by six horses, with a postillion on one of the leaders. The public-house was built by an old stage-coach driver named Grundy, who had previously driven one of the London coaches. The Red Rover began running in 1831. It became very popular, because it was supposed that it would not upset if the axle-tree broke.

AN EARLY LECTURER ON HEADS.

But there is one still earlier reminiscence of the *Swan Inn* which should be noted. In 1764 a Mr. Stevens made a short stay there for the purpose of giving, at two shillings for each person, his lecture upon heads and head-dresses. He came here again in 1766, when he railed against imitators and robbers ; in 1773, when he lectured in the first Exchange ; and in 1779, when he made three appearances at the theatre. His visit in 1764 was announced by means of a broadside which ran thus :—

Every person who possesses, or supposes he possesses, any rarity worthy the company of the curious, to gain the patronage of the public puts forth a pompous advertisement, which every puppet showmaster, wire-dancer, bear leader, and fire-eater find their account in declaring that as how their performances have given prodigious satisfaction in London, to the nobility and the quality, and the ladies and the gentlefolks, and also to the royal family. Not to differ from any of his brother showmen in point of phrase, the exhibitor of this lecture upon heads and no-heads takes the liberty to acquaint the ladies and gentlemen of the town that the approbation with which the above-named lecture was received at the theatre in London by persons of the first distinction, encouraged him to perform it this summer in the country ; and as it is calculated for the entertainment of persons of understanding, education

and taste, he hopes to have the favour of their company whilst here.

Stevens was the first person who, single-handed, attempted to entertain an audience for three hours.

A WELL-KNOWN STATIONER'S BUSINESS.

The stationer's business which many readers will remember as standing at the corner of Palace Street was the oldest in Manchester. It was begun more than a century ago, by John Roberts, who was the son of one of Wesley's early preachers. It has been stated by one who knew the family that at the time the son commenced the business his father was stationed at Oldham Street Chapel, and after service one evening he announced that his son had begun business in Market Street as a bookseller and stationer. The business was a prosperous one and Roberts left behind him a handsome fortune. At one time he sold more bill stamps than all other dealers in the town combined. He was succeeded by his manager, John Leigh, who had previously married Roberts' relative and assistant, Miss Andrews. After his retirement, the business was taken over by James Cheetham, or Jimmy Cheetham, as he was generally called. The shop was notable as being the only building whose front projected beyond the regulation building line after the widening operations were, with this exception, completed. The time prescribed by Act of Parliament for completing the improvement was twelve years, but for some reason or other Roberts' building was allowed to remain un-

touched. In later years the matter was the subject of litigation between the Corporation and James Cheetham, but nothing was done until about thirty years ago, when a giving way of a portion of the building compelled re-building to be resorted to, when the front was set back to the official building line.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART VI.

After passing High Street there is little to note respecting the tenants of the shops prior to 1822, save that four doors past High Street was the *Flying Horse Inn*, from which an occasional stage coach started on its journey. The shop at the corner of Stable Street, now Tib Street, was numbered 61, that at the top on the opposite side being 62, after which the numbers followed consecutively to the bottom of the street. Passing by the Royal Hotel and the site of Bannerman's early warehouse, both of which have been dealt with previously, we pause at the corner of West Mosley Street and note two interesting associations with the spot.

QUAKER HOLT.

Quaker Holt was for some years the occupant of premises formerly numbered 63, Market Street. Mr. Holt was one of the town's worthies a century ago. He was a cotton thread manufacturer, whose first mills, erected away from the town, gave the name to Holt Town. He also built mills in Temple Street, C.-on.-M., near to which he lived in a very large house. After

many years' prosperity misfortune overtook him, and his last years were spent in a state of dependence on others. In his prosperous days he accumulated a fine collection of pictures, which afterwards sold for £4,000. At one time he employed nearly a thousand persons in his mills, and was in every respect a considerate employer. Although political feeling ran high in the Peterloo period of our town's history, Mr. Holt never had any difficulty with his employés. He regarded them as members of a large family, and provided means for study and recreation in connection with the mills.

When the Temple Street concern was abandoned in 1835, an address was presented to Mr. Holt by his workpeople. In this address, which was unanimously approved by a full meeting of the employés, expressions of gratitude, veneration, and sympathy were conveyed in simple but touching language. Education found in him a strong advocate, and as the friend of Joseph Lancaster he was for many years the Chairman of the Committee of the Lancasterian School. The Commercial Travellers' Society was another movement that secured his active support, and in many other ways he rendered valuable public services. His philanthropic work brought him in contact with many eminent personages, including H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, to whom he became personally known. He died in 1846 at the age of 82. His son David, born in Temple Street in 1828, developed literary powers, and wrote several volumes of poems, the first of which, issued in 1850, was entitled "A Lay of Hero Worship and other

Poems." As a youth he entered the service of the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company, now known as the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, and when he died in 1880 he occupied the position of assistant secretary to the same company.

AN OLD INN.

Where Lewis's tower stands was for many years another of the old inns of the town whose records are well worth noting. In stage-coach days it was known as the starting-place of a number of coaches. The landlord, Samuel Wood, had in his time held the "ribbons." His widow continued the business after his death, and married a second time. When the coaches had been driven off the road the inn, like many others, became very much changed. Its later months were, however, marked with another interesting association. The Shandean Club, which had originated at a restaurant in Tib Lane, spent the last few months of its existence at the *Talbot*. The Shandean were a number of literary men with Bohemian tendencies. They included amongst their members many well-known journalists to whom the company of Edwin Waugh and John Stores Smith was at all times gratifying.

Passing by Cleveland's Buildings, which, with their windows fitted with small panes of glass, remained until the rebuilding a few years ago, we reach Spring Gardens, at the one corner of which there stood in 1822 the *Royal Oak Tavern*. The shop at the opposite corner was occupied by D. and P. Jackson, who in 1822 pub-

lished a series of eleven *Views of Manchester* from drawings by J. Ralston. The value to succeeding generations of this set of fine plates cannot easily be overestimated. Without them we should only be able to form a very inadequate opinion as to the appearance of our principal thoroughfare a century ago. As many sets were broken up and the prints are often met with singly, I will give a list of plates comprised in the set.

VIEWS OF OLD MARKET STREET.

1. The Market Place, showing the rounded front of the second Exchange, and stalls in the Market Place.
 2. The lower end of Market Street, showing the buildings at the corner of the Market Place.
 3. The lower end of Market Street, showing Newall's shop and the Exchange beyond.
 4. Dr. White's house, King Street, the site of the Reference Library.
 5. Mr. Hyde's shop in Market Street.
 6. Market Street just above Hyde's shop.
 7. The wooden Blackfriars Bridge.
 8. Salford Cross.
 9. Salford Cross, showing the Stocks.
 10. Market Street, showing the removal of buildings for making Newmarket Place.
 11. Market Street from the corner of Brown Street, looking in the direction of Spring Gardens.
- Leaving Jackson's shop we pass the furniture shop

of John Kaye, who built much of the property that formerly stood in Greenheys Lane, when the lane was a country walk bounded by hedgerows, fields, and gardens.

A WELL-KNOWN CRICKETER.

John Makinson, solicitor, occupied an office at 75, Market Street. His son Joseph became famous in the early days of Lancashire county cricket as a punishing batsman. His first great performance as a cricketer was achieved at Lord's in 1856, when, in addition to securing eight wickets at a cost of 40 runs, he scored 31 and 64 runs, thus being largely responsible for Cambridge's three wickets victory over Oxford. When Lancashire county cricket was commenced, Mr. Makinson threw in his lot with the team, and made a number of useful scores for the County Palatine. The totals do not appear to be high in light of modern scores, but when we consider the conditions under which the game was then played we realize their true value to his side. He played on several occasions in the Gentlemen *v.* Players' match, and in the match in 1864 scored 64 runs in the first innings. His last great innings was played in the last important match in which he took part. It was in one of those matches, well remembered by many of my readers, when the members of the Grace family made their annual appearances at Broughton. On that occasion, playing for his club against the visitors he made a not-out innings of 104. To the present generation of players the prowess of Makinson, Hornby, Barlow, and

others is only a tradition ; to those of us who saw exhibitions of it it is a pleasant memory. Mr. Makinson, like many another promising Lancashire player found in early life that the serious side of life demanded his thought and energy, and was compelled to devote his time to the profession of his adoption, that of the law. His success as a private practitioner was crowned by his appointment to the position of Stipendiary Magistrate for Salford. For more than a generation he has dealt out justice with an even hand, and all who know him will wish him many more years of such service, in addition to the tenure of the position of chairman of the committee of the Lancashire County Cricket Club.

In 1822 Messrs. W. Hind and Co. conducted business as tobacco and snuff dealers in a two-storeyed building whose two shop windows were of the ancient rounded shape, and which stood four doors from Brown Street. In those days there were in all three tobacconists' shops in Market Street, and in the whole of Manchester and Salford the number of such businesses only totalled up to nineteen. In very few phases has our social life changed more than in the case of smoking. In the days of old Market Street it was the custom to confine smoking to indoors. No one ever thought of smoking a pipe in the streets, and although in our views of old streets many persons are depicted, in no case do we see a representation of a man smoking a pipe or cigar. Only a moment's consideration will suffice to show how great a change has taken place during the last eighty years.

To-day there are more tobacconists' shops within a radius of two hundred yards from the Exchange than there were in 1822 in the whole of the towns of Manchester and Salford.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART VII.

A FIRM OF DIRECTORY PUBLISHERS.

Passing by the pair of half-timbered shops that stood at the corner of Brown Street, and to which reference has previously been made, we cross Brown Street, then a narrow thoroughfare with a footpath less than a yard in width on one side only, and see the shop of Messrs. R. and W. Dean. The firm was commenced by W. Dean at a shop next door to that of Hargreaves the druggist, and in the course of thirty years the Deans occupied five different shops in the street. They removed to the corner of Brown Street in 1815, and from that address published, in conjunction with James Pigot, a number of issues of the Manchester Directory. The death of R. Dean resulted in William conducting the business alone for some time. His directories were comprehensive and carefully compiled. They were not confined to Manchester and Salford, but included "the names of the merchants, manufacturers, tradesmen, etc., in the market towns and principal villages within twenty-four miles of Manchester, including those of Preston and Runcorn." These items, together with other matters, occupy about 530 pages. The adver-

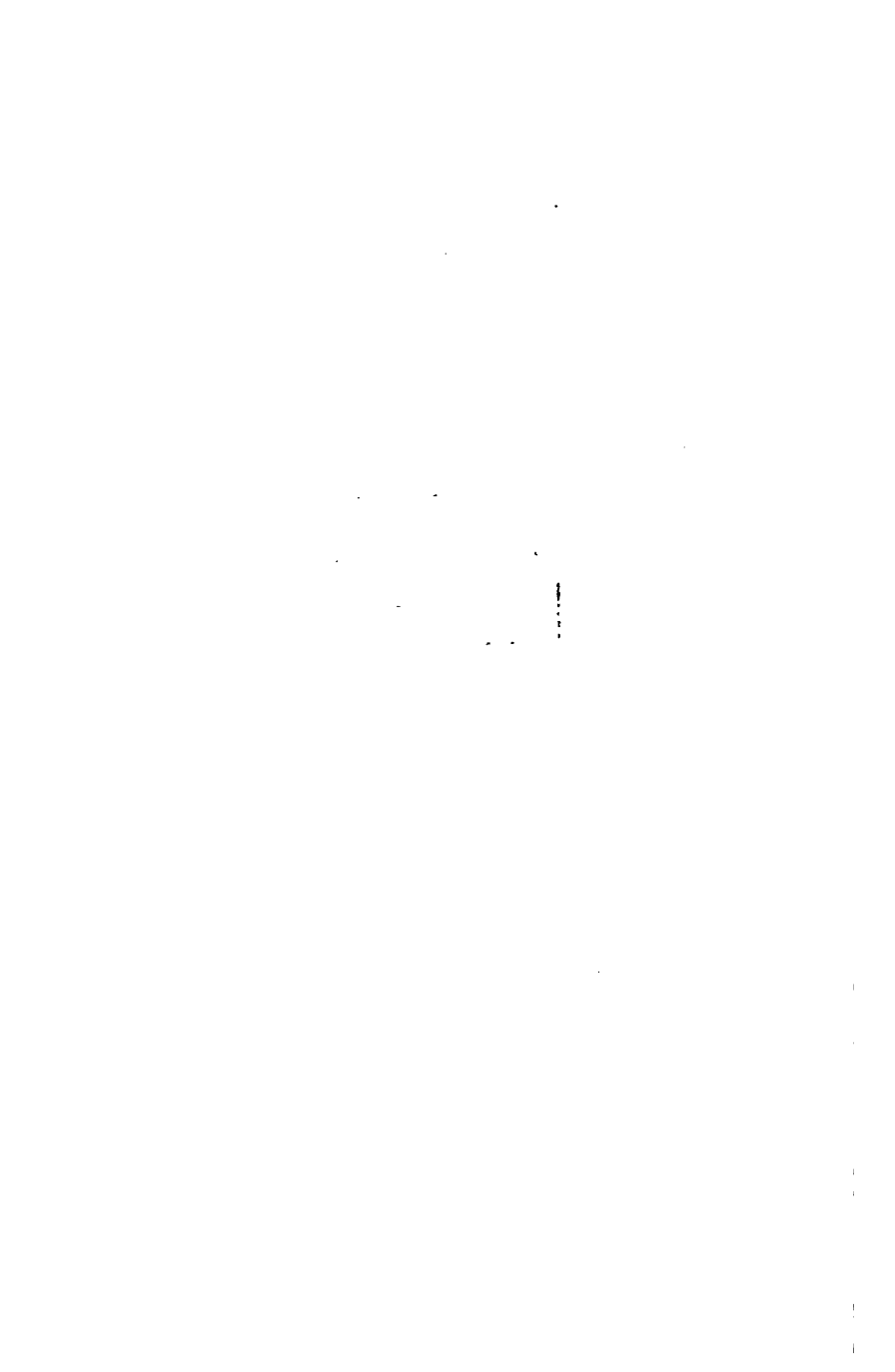
tisements are unusually interesting, and include a fine specimen of the engraver's art, forming an announcement of Pigot's engraving business. There is also an illustrated advertisement of Conway's the gun maker, an announcement of William Entwistle, "Copper, Bleeder, and wholesale and retail dealer in leeches," and another notifying the sailing of steam packets of three hundred tons burden to Dublin from Liverpool. Then we have an advertisement of the business of Zanetti and Agnew, then at 94, Market Street, which in view of the nature of Agnews' business to-day is well worth reading. Without copying the whole of the announcement, one sentence might be reproduced. It runs thus: "They have always on hand a very great variety of Pier and Chimney glasses, Mirrors, Lustres, Candelabras, Bronze Figures, Globes, Mathematical Instruments, Telescopes, Microscopes, Opera and Reading Glasses, Spectacles of every description suitable for all ages, Barometers, Thermometers and Hydrometers, Ackerman's and Newman's superfine Water Colours, Gold, Silver, Drawing, Writing, and Fancy Papers of every description, Black Lead, Chalk, and Camel Hair Pencils with a variety of other articles too numerous to mention."

THE ORIGIN OF A FAMOUS CONCERN.

Three doors past Dean's shop Thomas Sharp commenced business as an iron merchant. In course of time the business developed and changed considerably in character. From iron merchants the firm became one of engineers, and when Thomas Sharp died in 1841



Jewell's
shop. K
ORE 1825.



the firm of Sharp, Roberts, and Co. had earned an international reputation. The advent of the railway system gave them an opportunity of which they took the fullest advantage, and to-day the engines manufactured by Sharp, Stewart, and Co. can be found in all parts of the world. Little did Thomas Sharp dream when he opened his shop in Market Street Lane less than a century ago that the future had such remarkable developments in store for his business undertaking.

THE MOST PICTURESQUE BUILDING IN THE STREET.

No Manchester picture has been more frequently reproduced than has that depicting the front of the shops formerly occupied by Mr. Hyde. The reason for this is soon to be found. In the Manchester of a century ago no building exceeded for picturesque appearance those of the well-known cheese and butter merchant. As a specimen of the domestic architecture of the late Tudor period, the timber-work of which was arranged most elaborately in curious diaper and foliated patterns, it was superior to anything that has survived to our own day. Its overhanging gables and long windows, filled with hundreds of small panes of glass, were in striking contrast with the buildings occupying the site to-day. In one view of this charming specimen of Elizabethan architecture the foreground is filled with a stage coach; whilst the bystanders being apparently of leisurely habits, help to make up an extremely interesting glimpse of bygone days. Next door to Mr. Hyde's shop Joseph Harrop for some time carried on

business. Reference will be made to him when the Market Place is reached. The opening out of Pall Mall, and the early days of Agnews' having been dealt with, we pass on to notice a feature of social life now no longer allowed by law.

THE STATE LOTTERY.

To persons not intimately acquainted with our national history it is often a matter of surprise that less than a century ago not only were public lotteries allowed, but that they were advertised in the columns of our local newspaper in pretty much the same terms as those used by the proprietors of the lotteries now in vogue in many Continental towns. When Newmarket Place was made Joseph Merone conducted business as a carver and gilder in the shop that stood at the corner of the new thoroughfare. In one of Ralston's views we see this part of Market Street as it appeared when the buildings that had occupied the site of the new street had been taken down. A few men are engaged in moving the débris, their operations not being hidden away by a hoarding as would be the case to-day. The vehicular traffic in the street is represented by two carts, one drawn by a donkey, whilst a lad mounted on a donkey, and about a dozen persons on foot supply other features of life. The costumes are interesting, but a notice over the shop door demands our attention. It contains the words "State Lottery Office." What a state lottery of those days was can be gathered from the following advertisement which appeared in the *Manchester*

Observer for March 21, 1818: "The Wheel of Fortune, although several thousand tickets have been drawn, yet contains all the three prizes of £30,000 each, besides 65 other capitals of £5,000, £1,000, etc., which will be drawn next Thursday, 26th March, when the first drawn blank will receive four pipes of port, and shares in proportion, to be chosen by the purchasers themselves. T. Bish, the contractor, respectfully acquaints the public that he has received a command from the Lords of the Treasury to postpone the day of drawing to next Thursday (March 26) on account of the intended day being in Passion Week. Tickets and shares (warranted undrawn) are selling by T. Bish, Contractor, London, who sold No. 6,963, the first drawn blank, entitled to four pipes of wine, in two quarters, two eighths and four sixteenths; and he respectfully intreats those purchasers who have not yet chosen their wine, to select the choicest port wine in the kingdom, and send the bill to him, which he will immediately discharge. Bish also sold No. 3,107, a prize of £5,000, besides ten other capitals drawn from the first day, being (as usual) more than any other office keeper. In the last lottery that contained three prizes of £30,000, Bish sold them all." Then follows a list of Bish's agents in various towns.

In the days to which we refer Market Street extended to the corner of Ducie Place, which stood nearly opposite to where the corner of Beaty's shop is to-day. The Exchange was much smaller than the present one, and amongst the shops which stood between Newmarket Place and Ducie Place were several which are worthy

of mention. Two of these were posting houses and coach offices. One of these was at one time known as *The Swan with Two Necks*, but was often called the Lower Swan; and the other the *Peacock*, kept for some time by John Knowles, the father of the well-known theatre manager. From this office, which stood on a site now represented by Cross Street, the "Peveril of the Peak" coach started in its last days. Cross Street, so far as Market Street was concerned, was represented by a covered passage over which was a bedroom connected with an inn, *The Packhorse*, which was of quaint appearance, kept at one time by a landlord with the familiar name of John Frost. Between Newmarket Place and the *Packhorse* were two very old two-storeyed, half-timbered houses and two three-storeyed ones of more modern appearance. Nearer to the Exchange stood the shop of William Newall, numbered 105 in the old directories, but, strange to say, erroneously numbered as 125 in the two views of the building that have come down to us. Next to Newall's shop were two beautiful half-timbered houses, which together with their site tell an interesting story which must be deferred to another chapter. Past these were three less imposing houses, one of which was occupied as a tavern under the sign of the Dog and Partridge. The bottom shop was occupied by J. Shaw, saddler, and the gable end is seen in the well-known print of the Market Place previously referred to.

THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART VIII.

BEFORE THE WIDENING.

We have seen somewhat of the conditions of Market Street in the early part of the century, and have noted some of its residents when the last century was still young. The town was extending rapidly on all sides. It was maintaining a high position as a manufacturing centre, and the traffic through the streets was steadily increasing year by year. For some time very great inconvenience was experienced by reason of the narrowness of Market Street ; but not until 1820 was the matter taken seriously in hand. About that time a friend of a lady still living had a curious experience. She was walking down Market Street one morning about 1820 and had reached the narrowest part of the thoroughfare where the footpath was only about two feet wide, when two carts met. It was usual in such cases for the driver of the vehicle going down the street to stop whilst the other cart negotiated the narrow portion. On this occasion the custom was not observed, with the result that the carts passed each other at a place which offered no retreat for the lady on the footpath. All she could do was to stand with her back to the house wall. The carts, in passing each other, were obliged to encroach

on the narrow footway. The lady escaped uninjured, but her bonnet, which projected considerably was seriously damaged by the cart wheel. This was one of the accidents that possessed a humorous side ; many, however, were of a more serious nature. One of these occurred on June 4, 1821, when a young man was severely crushed between the wall and the wheel of a passing carrier's cart. Such occurrences hastened forward the scheme for the proposed improvements, and in 1821 Parliament passed a Bill granting the necessary powers. The preamble to the Act declared that Market Street, "which is the principal thoroughfare of the town, is very narrow and inconvenient, and is in its present state dangerous to persons and carriages passing through the same, and 'the trade and commerce of the said town have been much obstructed and injured, and various serious accidents have occurred, and many lives have been lost in consequence thereof.'" At the same time power was given to widen Toad Lane (now Todd Street), described by one writer as "one of the filthiest suburbs of the town, and so confined that the winds of Heaven could scarcely penetrate it," to open out King Street to Deansgate by removing the carrier's yard and stables that formerly stood across the bottom of it, to widen Toll Lane (St. Ann's Street), which was a "narrow avenue, through which a cart could hardly pass," and to widen Pool Lane and Nicholas Croft. The carrying out of the work was entrusted to a committee of influential townsmen known as the Market Street Commissioners, over whom Thomas Fleming presided. This

gentleman was in his way a Manchester worthy, and in some future volume I will give some account of the many valuable services he rendered to the town.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK.

In June, 1822, the work of demolition was begun, the buildings at the corner of the Market Place being the first to secure attention. This fact is noted on a stone slab in the wall of the present building, but the inscription has never been completed, the date of the completion of the widening not having been filled in. This was followed by the setting back of the property near Newmarket Place and the making of that thoroughfare. Gradually the whole of the work was done, two of the last sections demanding attention being a building near to Ducie Place, and another one near to Swan Court. As showing the changes made in the street elevation during the widening it may be pointed out that in the case of the shops near Ducie Place whereas previously they had stood about six inches above the street level when they were pulled down the street was about eight inches above the shop floors. In the other cases the reverse state of things was brought about, and the footpath, being altered after the cartway had been completed, stood for some time about two feet above the new street level. The Act of Parliament allowed a period of twelve years in which the work was to be completed, and by 1832 it was almost finished. The one exception, near the *Palace Inn*, has already been noted.

THE COST OF THE WORK.

The total cost of the work done up to the end of 1834 was £232,925. This amount included the cost of the various improvements sanctioned by the Bill in 1821. In view of the present high value of land in the centre of the city it may be noted that the total amount paid for land and buildings was £133,000. When we remember that at one place the building lines were set back sixteen yards, and for a considerable distance an average of ten yards, the cost of the buildings and land was low. It would be interesting to know the average price paid for land for the purpose of the Market Street widening. We know that in 1831 land in Cross Street sold at £6 per yard, in Newmarket Place at £6 10s., in Pool Fold at £5, in Fountain Street at £4, and in Spring Gardens at £5. At these rates street improvements would be more readily entered upon to-day; but when every square yard of land required for such improvement is worth at least £100 our city fathers may well pause ere they attempt to further widen Market Street. There is one feature which should be borne in mind when the policy and cost incurred by those early improvers of our city is considered. To-day, if an important improvement is determined upon, the whole of the property is scheduled at once. Not so when the Market Street Commissioners were engaged upon their labours. They had no power to borrow money, but had to content themselves with such profits as might accrue from the gasworks, in addition to any special rate that might

be levied for the purpose. The widening was not only done in sections, but the various properties were only purchased when the available funds would allow. The result was that as a consequence of the improvement produced by the earlier alterations, the value of the remaining properties was raised, and the Commissioners were compelled to pay enhanced prices. The total cost was therefore higher than would have been the case if present day principles had been adopted.

AFTER THE WIDENING.

As will be readily understood the completion of the great undertaking was regarded with much satisfaction by the townspeople, and some writers used what appears to us to be most extravagant language in describing the improved thoroughfare. They thought that never again would any alteration be necessary in order to provide facilities for the traffic that might pass along the street. Local poets were not behind, and Ben Oldfield, in his song "Manchester's Improving Daily," devoted a verse to the event. It ran thus :—

Once Market Street was so narrow,
There was hardly room to wheel a barrow ;
But now 'tis made so large and wide, sirs,
Six carriages may go side by side, sirs ;
Sing heigh ! sing ho ! sing heydown gaily !
Manchester's improving daily !

Joseph Aston in his *Metrical Records of Manchester* waxes even more enthusiastic, as the following lines will show :—

This spring, what for years had humanity goaded,
Was a too narrow policy, fairly exploded ;

Market Street, which so often had caused so much woe,
No longer, 'twas settled, should remain in "stat quo."
In good earnest, the narrow defile was surveyed,
And ordered it twenty-one yards wide be made ;
That a nuisance of which ages past had complained,
And which shamefully long had a nuisance remained,
Should now be removed, and to defray the expense
To the highway assessment add a few pence.
'Twas a measure of mercy and wisdom combined,
As ages to come will most happily find ;
And none but the surgeons and death can complain,
The one loss of victims, the other of gain.

The literary merit of the lines is not high, but they serve to show how the improvement was regarded by the townspeople. Soon after it had been completed, the stage coach traffic down the street gradually disappeared. How great that traffic was will be realized when we remember that just before the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway no fewer than thirty coaches travelled daily between those two towns. We now leave the old street and turn our attention to the thoroughfare as we know it.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART IX.

AN INTERESTING SITE.

Among the later residents of old Market Street was William Newall, who carried on business as a grocer in a shop that formerly stood where the steps of the Exchange are to-day. Next door lower down the street were two of the most interesting and picturesque houses in the old thoroughfare. They were half-timbered and had overhanging gables. In appearance they must have resembled some of the finer specimens of black and white buildings to be found in Chester. When the widening operations were commenced these buildings were among the first to be pulled down. Unlike most of the other buildings or fronts of buildings in the old street, these were not destroyed. They were preserved, and that in a somewhat remarkable manner.

WILLIAM YATES.

William Yates was a manufacturer of upholsterers' trimmings, who resided at No. 1, Newton Street, Piccadilly. He was a man of literary and antiquarian tastes, but withal an unamiable and eccentric character. He collected everything that bore the hall mark of age

Therefore, when the two old Market Street houses were condemned to destruction, he purchased the whole of the materials. As a site for their new location he purchased a piece of land at Stony Knolls, Roman Road, near Bury New Road. There he had the building re-erected in the midst of what were then delightful surroundings. When rebuilding operations were in progress he introduced into some of the rooms a number of Scriptural and allegorical carvings which he had obtained from the Collegiate Church then under alterations. In the garden he placed the obelisk erected in the Market Place in 1791 on the site of Manchester's first Exchange, and generally known as "Nathan Crompton's Folly." It was removed from the Market Place in 1816. Yates afterwards lived in the house, and filled it with a large assortment of curiosities, some valuable and many the reverse. He sold his library and other property by auction in 1829, and removed from the town. Knowles House still stands, although amid very different surroundings from those of eighty years ago.

NEWALL'S BUILDINGS.

The buildings referred to, in addition to some adjoining ones, were the property of William Newall, who after the surrender of the portion required for street-widening purposes had been completed, built on the site a number of shops, over which was formed a large room suitable for meeting purposes. The town at that time was greatly in need of such accommodation, and many



MARKET STREET IN 1828—MARKET PLACE END.

meetings were held in the room. It is, however, notable principally as having been for seven years the home of the Anti-Corn Law League. So much has been said of late respecting the free-trade movement that it is not necessary to say anything as to the policy of the League. We shall, therefore, confine our notes to the story of its origin, together with a brief sketch of its growth. The high price of corn, consequent upon a tax levied to meet the cost of the great Peninsula War together with the low rates of wages received by the working classes, produced so much misery, poverty and discontent in the country, that a number of men determined to take united action that should have for its object the removal of taxes from food and raw materials coming into the country. Inasmuch as a plentiful supply of good food at the lowest possible prices was deemed as being of first importance to the country, the tax upon corn was the special object of their attack.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE ANTI-CORN LAW LEAGUE.

On September 24, 1838, a meeting was held at the York Hotel, King Street. Its object was to form an association that should advocate the repeal of the duty on corn, and the meeting was attended by several gentlemen whose names should be held in remembrance by all free traders. They were: Edward Baxter, dry-salter, of Cannon Street; W. A. Cunningham, a gentleman of independent means living in Bond Street; Andrew Dalziel, a tea dealer; James Howie,

calico printer ; Archibald Prentice, of the *Examiner and Times* ; and Philip Thompson, a cashier. The movement thus started grew with encouraging rapidity, and in less than a month a provisional committee of seventy members, including many of the leading business men of the town, was formed. A subscription of five shillings was agreed upon, and A. W. Paulton, a medical student who abandoned medicine for politics, opened the propagandist work of the new association by delivering two lectures on the Corn Laws in the Corn Exchange. It was soon discovered that the work of the association could not be carried on by means of the small membership subscription. An appeal for funds was made, and in January, 1839, over £6,000 was raised for the purpose. Then it was that a meeting-place was looked for, and the rooms in Newall's buildings secured. The first meeting held took place on January 28, 1839, when the Anti-Corn Law League was formed, with J. B. Smith, afterwards M.P. for Stockport, as president. Three months later the first number of the "Anti-Corn Law Circular" was published.

A STEVENSON SQUARE MEETING.

Early in 1840 a temporary pavilion was erected on St. Peter's Field, on land belonging to Richard Cobden. In later years the pavilion was replaced by the Free Trade Hall. The first building was opened by a great public banquet held on January 13, 1840, and was attended by twenty-six members of Parliament, amongst whom was Daniel O'Connell. The movement soon

obtained a strong hold upon the working classes in Manchester and the surrounding district, who presented a petition bearing 5,300 signatures to the Mayor of Manchester asking for an open-air town's meeting to be called to consider the question of the repeal of the Corn Tax. As the mayor was unable to accede to the request a meeting of working men was held in Stevenson Square on June 2, 1841, and was attended by 20,000 persons. From this time forward the movement rapidly gained strength in all parts of the country, and in 1842 a conference was held in London, which was attended by over 600 delegates representing various parts of the United Kingdom. At length, after a long struggle, Sir Robert Peel, speaking in the House of Commons, expressed himself favourable to a reduced tax upon corn. Seeing that the proposed sliding scale would prevent wheat from selling at less than 54s. per quarter, the free traders gave it their stoutest opposition, and attempted at the same time to pass a repeal resolution through the House of Commons. In this they were defeated by 393 votes to 90. Month after month and year after year the fight continued in the House and in the country, Newall's Buildings being the centre from which everything was controlled. At length famine came to the rescue, and forcing Peel's hands compelled him to declare for free trade, which he did, for on January 27, 1845, Sir Robert Peel presented his repeal measure to the House of Commons. Four years later the corn tax was entirely removed. As showing the determined manner in which the work of the League

was conducted, it may be said that less than a month before Peel's final declaration a meeting of the League was held, at which it was decided to open a fund to raise £250,000 to further carry on the work. At the meeting sums amounting to £60,000 were promised, the list being headed by twenty-four contributions of a thousand pounds each. In less than a month the sum had grown to £150,000. The membership of the League included men of all shades of political thought. The leading members included Richard Cobden, John Bright, George Wilson, the chairman of the Council, who attended 1,961 meetings; C. P. Villiers, T. Milner Gibson, W. J. Fox, James Kershaw, and Joseph Brotherton. A fine oil painting, representing a meeting of the Council, was produced by J. R. Herbert, R.A. This was engraved by S. Bellin and published by Thomas Agnew on July 25, 1860. The group is represented as meeting in the historic room in Newall's Buildings.

THE LEAGUE DISBANDED.

When free trade seemed assured the League was disbanded, but most of the more active members combined together to form the National Reform Union, which met in the old room until the building was taken down, when it was removed to a room over Sharp and Scott's new shop in Market Street. Many other meetings were held from time to time in Newall's Buildings, one of which should be mentioned. In 1857 political feeling ran high in consequence of the action taken by John Bright with reference to the Crimean war. In

connection with the general election that took place in that year Bright and Milner Gibson offered themselves for re-election for Manchester. At a meeting held on their behalf in the Town Hall, King Street, a disturbance arose, and when the candidates left the Hall they were followed along Cross Street by a howling mob. When they reached their committee rooms at Newall's Buildings, it was as much as their friends could do to protect them from assault and injury. It is curious that just as the Free Trade Hall stands on the site of Peterloo, a portion of the present Exchange stands upon the site of Newall's Buildings.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART X.

SOME LITERARY ITEMS.

WILMOT HENRY JONES.

Amongst the many interesting features presented by a review of the history of Market Street there are many that are associated with literature and journalism ; and in dealing with the modern street we will notice such items first. In a volume bearing the curious title *Gimcrackiana*, printed by Wilmot Henry Jones in 1833, there are several interesting illustrations. One of these appears as a vignette on page 181. It represents the printing office of W. H. Jones as it appeared seventy years ago. The Red Rover stage coach is depicted as passing the building on its way to London. From that office there were issued a number of volumes, one of which has deservedly secured international fame. Wilmot Henry Jones commenced business as a printer in rooms overlooking Market Street, and entered from Barlow's Court. A man of literary tastes, he had the power of attracting to himself a number of young men of marked ability. Playing the part of a local Moxon, he published a number of volumes by Manchester writers. These included, John Bolton Rogerson's

Rhyme, Romance, and Reverie, Edward Chesshyre's *Posthumous Songs*, Gregson's *Gimcrackiana*, and the *Manchester Literary Gazette*. The last-named book included contributions by J. B. Rogerson, Charles Kenworthy, J. S. Gregson, and Mrs. E. S. Graven Green. These publications never attained more than a local fame, although some of Rogerson's poems secured the approval of London critics. All other of Jones's publications paled in importance as compared with the *Festus* of Philip James Bailey.

A FAMOUS POEM.

Festus is by far the most important poem ever issued from the Manchester press, and therefore is worthy of special note. Philip James Bailey, the son of Thomas Bailey, editor and proprietor of the *Nottingham Mercury*, and author of the *Annals of Nottinghamshire*, was born on April 22, 1816. He was intended for the Bar, but as a result of certain studies entertained ideas of entering the Presbyterian Church Ministry. Whilst studying law at Glasgow he devoted much of his time to literary pursuits, and when his father questioned him as to his progress he handed him the manuscript of a poem. On reading it the father was so struck by its merits that he advised the publication of it. Young Bailey had made the acquaintance of W. H. Jones, to whom he entrusted the printing of the volume. The publication of the volume was given to Pickering. On April 27, 1839, the printing and binding was completed, and on that evening the event was celebrated at the residence of

Mr. Jones in St. Stephen Street, Salford, by a supper, to which were invited those who had taken part in the production of the volume. To each of the guests was presented a copy of the book, containing an inscription signed by all present. Such copies are now exceedingly rare. Although Mr. Bailey in after years published a number of other volumes, none of them reached the high level of his first production. Rarely has the appearance of a new poem secured so much attention as was accorded to *Festus*. Tennyson, writing to Edward Fitzgerald in 1846, said, "I have just got *Festus*; order it, and read. You will most likely find it a great bore, but there are really great things in *Festus*." Browning and Lord Lytton joined in the chorus of praise, and Sam Bamford declared that at some future time the fact that the book had been printed in Manchester would be deemed "an honour to the town." Many editions of the poem were published, including several printed in America. At least one of the latter was sumptuously illustrated. In 1889 Mr. Bailey edited the Jubilee edition, and when, in 1901, the University of Glasgow bestowed upon him the degree of LL.D., it was announced that forty-one editions of the poem had been issued. Mr. Bailey died at Nottingham on September 6, 1902, in his eighty-seventh year.

EDWIN SLATER AND DAVID KELLY.

Nearly seventy years ago Henry Whitmore carried on business as a bookseller in a shop near the top of the street, numbered 109, but afterwards altered to 129.

When he retired from business he was succeeded by Edwin Slater and David Kelly. The latter, who was a native of Manchester, served his apprenticeship with George Simms, of 10, Exchange Street, who afterwards removed to St. Ann's Square, where he founded the business conducted by Simms and Durham, now known as Cornish's. Kelly and Slater commenced business in 1851, and very soon afterwards the former, who was a book lover and reader, in addition to being a bookseller, made the acquaintance of Edwin Waugh, then unknown to fame as a poet. In 1856 the latter heard of a poem by Waugh that had appeared in the columns of the *Examiner and Times*, read it, and strongly urged him to publish it. After some deliberation he decided to adopt the suggestion, and a few weeks later *Come whoam to thi childer an' me* was issued in sheet form. This was a year after the same firm had published Waugh's *Lancashire Sketches*. At first two thousand copies of *Come whoam* were printed, but these soon sold, and almost immediately a demand for the cards was created in Lancashire and in many districts beyond the county. In a very few months the pirates were at work, and the poem was printed in a variety of styles, thousands of tea papers bearing the verses being sold to grocers by enterprising printers. Mr. Kelly subsequently published in the same form *What ails thee, my son Robin, Eawr Folk, Th' dule's i' this bonnet o' mine*, and others of Waugh's poems. Waugh's first volume of poems was published by the same firm in 1859, but soon afterwards the partnership was dissolved, and

Mr. Kelly commenced business at 53, Market Street. In 1860 Mr. Slater issued a *Review of Politics and Literature*. Mr. Kelly's first assistant at 53 was Thomas Sutcliffe, who afterwards commenced business in the Market Place, and in 1874 published Proctor's *Memorials of Manchester Streets*. Mr. Kelly retired from business in 1871, and was succeeded by his assistant Mr. T. J. Day, who, after being unfortunate in several ventures, was appointed librarian at the Owens College Medical Library, which position he held until his death. After his retirement from business Mr. Kelly devoted much attention to literary matters.

JAMES EVERETT.

Few Wesleyan ministers who have been connected with Manchester have commanded more notice than did James Everett, who in the course of a long life was known as Wesleyan minister, poet, bookseller, biographer, and chronicler of local events. He was born at Alnwick, Northumberland, in May, 1784, and first visited Manchester in 1815-17. In 1824, in consequence of a throat affection, he was placed on the list of supernumerary preachers for a year or two. Leaving Sheffield in May, 1825, he came to Manchester and started business as a bookseller in a shop that stood in Merchants' Square. Merchants' Square and the surrounding property disappeared when Corporation Street was made. There is a rule of the Wesleyan Conference which prohibits a minister from engaging in business. In view of the peculiar circumstances

surrounding Everett's case, the rule was not insisted upon for some time. When improving health enabled him once again to take up pulpit duty he was asked to choose between the pulpit and the shop. He chose the former, and handed his bookselling business to a nephew. A few years later the issue of a number of leaflets known as *fly-sheets*, in which the lives, characters, and peculiarities of well-known Wesleyan preachers were sketched in forcible language, created a large amount of annoyance to members of the Conference. In the end Everett, Samuel Dunn, and William Griffiths were expelled from the body at the annual Conference, held in the Oldham Street Chapel in August, 1849. When residing in Manchester he lived for a time in Sedgwick's Court, Deansgate, where, in 1831, he was visited by James Montgomery the poet. As a writer Everett produced a number of interesting books. Locally, the most noteworthy was his *Panorama of Manchester*, and one volume only of *Wesleyan Methodism in Manchester*. His poetical works, which were of inferior merit, included a metrical tale, *Edwin*. Biography was the branch of literary work in which he excelled, his three-volume work, entitled *Adam Clarke Portrayed*, and another bearing the title *The Life of Sammy Hick, the Village Blacksmith*, being well worthy of the attention of others than Wesleyans. He will, however, pass down to posterity as the writer of many, if not all, of the sketches published afterwards under the title of *Wesleyan Takings*. He died at Sunderland on May 10, 1872.

THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART XI.

JOHN STANLEY GREGSON.

Another Market Street bookseller who left behind him memorials of his genius, and like many another also left a business record, notable for misfortune and disaster, was John Stanley Gregson. He belonged to a family that came originally from Bishop Burton, a village near Beverley. He was educated at the Moravian School at Fairfield, and served an apprenticeship with Thomas Sowler, of St. Ann's Square. After an unfortunate partnership in the Manchester trade, in which he lost nearly the whole of his capital, he commenced business as a bookseller in the shop next door to Jewsbury and Brown's chemist's shop. Always weakly, his health broke down under the strain of business responsibility, and he was compelled to sell out. For a few years he acted as assistant to Mr. Gleave, the Deansgate bookseller, but increasing weakness necessitated another change, and he died at his sister's house at Brixton in 1837, a victim of consumption, at the early age of thirty-six. His father, who was buried at Cross Street Chapel, died in his thirty-sixth year. Such is a brief sketch of his career. Let us as briefly note the



MARKET STREET IN 1830, PICCADILLY END.

two little volumes he produced, both of which show that in spite of his ill-health he was endowed with a sense of humour and a fair amount of good spirits.

GIMCRACKIANA.

In 1833 he issued anonymously an octavo volume bearing the curious title of *Gimcrackiana: or Fugitive Pieces on Manchester Men and Manners ten years ago*. It was printed by Wilmot Henry Jones, and was dedicated "To the thrifty sons of trade, Manchester men and the public, by Geoffry Gimcrack." The illustrations include several views of bits of the town of the early part of the last century, one of which was the building removed from Market Street to Stoney Knolls, previously referred to. The subjects dealt with include "Cannon Street," "The Races," "One o'clock," "The Gentlemen's Concert," "The Fountain Street Refectory," and a "Suburban Sortie." All are treated in a light and racy fashion, and the book is as entertaining now, seventy years after publication, as it was when issued. One quotation may be given. In those days one o'clock was the commencement of Manchester's dinner-hour, during which many warehouses and shops were closed. After dilating upon the important work of the Town Commissioners he says.—

The new Town Hall and widening Market Street,
In fine they wax'd into a warm debate
Upon the business of this busy town—
But lo! as they descanted on that lane
That narrow way where lately I'd been squeez'd

Nigh unto death—an awful stop was made
(As when 'mongst Israelites "The plague was stayed")
The chair deserted—thanks returned (of course)—
"This day's proceedings" duly advertised
In *Aston's Herald*, and the *Guardian's* page,
And "Wheeler's fam'd third book of Chronicles ;"
Cawdroy's Gazette, and *Harrop's Volunteer*,
And winged "Couriers" proclaim their deeds !
The rest postponed—But why this sudden shock ;
The hungry sinners ; it struck ONE O'CLOCK.

The narrow lane was, of course, Market Street, and the third book of Chronicles refers to "Wheeler's Manchester Chronicle."

A CODE OF COMMON-SENSE.

Gregson's second book bears the title of *A Code of Common-sense, or Patent Pocket Dictionary*. Like the first-named volume, it was printed by W. H. Jones, in 1833 ; and the author is styled "Geoffrey Gimcrack, gent." In his preface the author says : "The idea of compiling this little lexicon occurred to me during the long evenings of a two months' winter residence in the Modern Athens." He then goes on to say that the idea of collecting the definitions was not original, but was prompted by an article that had appeared in the *New Monthly Magazine* ; although one is inclined to the opinion that many of the definitions were original. A few may be given as samples of the contents of the little volume :

"Absurdity—Anything advanced by our opponents, contrary to our own practice, or above our comprehension."

"Blushing—A practice least used by those who have most occasion for it."

"Brandy and Water—Liquid fire and distilled damnation."

"Gentleman—A name often bestowed upon a well-dressed blackguard and withheld from the rightful owner, who only wears his qualifications in his heart."

"Irish Nightingale—A pig crushed under a gate during a nocturnal ramble."

"Lottery—The only game of chance where you are certain of losing your money."

"Milk (London)—The joint production of the cow and the pump."

"Originality—Undetected imitation."

"Religion—Occupying a seat at some genteel church or chapel."

"Religion—Saying you believe, putting your hat before your face when you enter a church, and moving your lips as though you were praying."

"Ring—A circular link put upon the snouts of swine and upon the fingers of women, to hold them both in subjection."

"Time—A tooth drawer."

"Royalty—Solitary imprisonment in a crowded court."

"Undertaker—One who lives by death."

THE JEWSBURYS.

Thomas Jewsbury carried on business as a yarn

agent, and as agent for the West of England Insurance Company, at 94, Market Street. He came to Manchester from Measham, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in 1818, and after occupying offices in various streets, he settled down in Market Street. He died in 1840 at an advanced age. His son, Henry, was one of the founders of the firm of Jewsbury and Brown, and was financially interested in the firm of Jewsbury, Crux, and Gething. Another son, Frank, succeeded to the insurance agency. He was a man of literary tastes, and his house at the end of Greenheys Lane was the scene of many interesting re-unions. Not only did some of his fellow-members of the Shandean Club partake of his hospitality at 30, Carlton Terrace, but leading literary men were at various times his guests. The latter included Tennyson and Carlyle. Two of Thomas Jewsbury's daughters also made names for themselves in the literary world. The elder of these, Maria Jane, afterwards became Mrs. Fletcher. She died in 1833 in India. Whilst living in Manchester she wrote a number of poems, several of which have been referred to in the course of these articles. Many of her verses were published in book form under the title of *Lays of Leisure Hours*. She contributed many articles to the periodicals of the day, and a series of papers written during her voyage to India with her husband in 1831. These were published in the *Athenæum* under the title of "Oceanides." She also published three other volumes of prose, two of which, *Letters to the Young*, and *The Three Histories*, were exceedingly popular, and secured extensive circula-

tions. In the last-named she tells much of her own thoughts, feelings, and life's experience under the garb of fiction. Her early death was regretted by many lovers of literature. Her sister, Geraldine, was six years old when their mother died ; and at once the elder sister devoted herself to the education of her younger sisters, of whom there were three. When Maria married the Rev. W. K. Fletcher, Geraldine took her place in the household. During her sister's residence at home she had, through her, made the acquaintance of Alaric A. Watts, and would undoubtedly be aware of the encouragement given to the young poetess by Wordsworth. This literary atmosphere was just to her liking, but after finishing her education at Alder Mills, near Tamworth, she had little opportunity for literary work for a considerable period of time. Household cares, and attention to a father whose health was very much impaired, occupied all her time. His death, in 1840, removed many domestic responsibilities, and Geraldine was not slow to embrace the opportunities that presented themselves. Her first literary friends included Carlyle and George Henry Lewes, who encouraged her to attempt some literary work. Amongst the other guests of her brother who recognized her ability were Professor Hodgson, Edwin Waugh, and Dr. Angus Smith, who were ever welcome visitors at Carlton Terrace. When her brother married she went to London, in order to devote herself to literature. In 1845 she published her first work, *Zoe ; or, the History of Two Lives*. This was followed by a number of other works

of fiction. These are all well nigh forgotten, but they possess an amount of merit that certainly deserved for them a longer life. She was a frequent contributor to the columns of the *Athenæum*, and many stories from her pen appeared in *Household Words*, *The Ladies' Companion*, and other periodicals. Her latter days glided peacefully away at Seven Oaks, Kent, where she died on September 23, 1880, in the sixty-ninth year of her age.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART XII.

In referring to the notable men who have been associated with Market Street during the past seventy years mention must be made of

HARRY RAWSON.

Seventy years ago Forrest and Fogg carried on business as booksellers at 79, Market Street. Their shop was in those days notable as being the only place in the town where Unitarian publications were placed upon the counter for sale. About the same time Harry Rawson, then a lad of eleven years of age, found employment in the shop, and two years later, in 1833, he commenced his apprenticeship there. After completing the term of five years, young Rawson continued in the employment of the firm until 1843, when, in partnership with a fellow-apprentice, John Johnson, he commenced business in Barlow's Court, removing afterwards to an office in Corporation Street, and in 1853 entering into occupation of the shop where both partners had served their apprenticeship. Mr. Rawson's education as a boy having been very indifferent, he found facilities for improving himself at the Mosley Street Unitarian

Sunday School, and at the Mechanics' Institution in Cooper Street. The connection thus formed with the latter institution proved to be of mutual benefit, for in later years Mr. Rawson was elected a member of the Board of Directors, and for two years held the position of chairman. Many branches of the work undertaken there secured his active support. He was for many years secretary of the Mutual Improvement Society, was a promoter of the scheme of evening classes, took an active part in organizing the cheap Saturday evening concerts, and was an active member of the elocution class. In 1858 he was appointed a trustee, and was a vice-president until the Institution was taken over by the Corporation.

Municipal affairs also demanded his attention in his early years, and in 1856 he was elected a councillor for Cheetham Ward, and it is noteworthy that his first speech in the Council Chamber was in the advocacy of placing bands in the parks on Sundays. The free libraries movement ever found in Mr. Rawson a most vigorous advocate, and in June, 1860, he opened the Rochdale Road library. Owing to misfortune he was compelled soon afterwards to resign his seat in the Council, and the general sympathy and regret of his colleagues was marked on August 5, 1861, when they and other friends made a presentation to him of an address, a gold watch, and the sum of twelve hundred guineas. A second period of membership of the Council was closed by a serious illness in 1864. Twenty years later he was returned as a Councillor for Exchange

Ward, in 1894 he was elected an alderman, and when he died in 1904 he was still a member of the Council. Although often pressed to accept the position of Mayor, Mr. Rawson never saw his way to accede to the request, a decision regretted by thousands of citizens. His colleagues, however, made amends by electing him a Freeman of the City in 1903. Mr. Rawson's services to the City Council were many and extremely valuable, but they did not demand the whole of his time or thought. During a long period of years there were few social, educational, or reform movements connected with the city which did not secure his sympathy and support. He was in every respect a specimen of the ideal citizen, and it is doubtful whether in the centuries that have passed since Manchester came into existence she has produced his superior for probity, for determination to give of his best in the interests of the community, and for breadth of sympathy combined with a simplicity in private life and a desire to encourage the best in others.

THE "MANCHESTER OBSERVER."

On the last Saturday in 1817 there appeared the first number of the *Manchester Observer*. Three months later it passed into the hands of Mark Wardle, who issued it from an office in Pool Court, and afterwards from 76, Market Street. Like many of the Reform papers of those days the *Observer* was in the habit of using strong language in its references to the Government. As a result the proprietor was in March, 1819,

charged with libel, and convicted. The paper then fell into the hands of James Wroe, bookseller, who carried on business at 18, Market Street, and 49, Great Ancoats Street. Wroe was as violent in his politics as had been his predecessor, and printed several libels on the Prince of Wales. He was prosecuted, convicted, was sentenced to pay a heavy fine, and to be imprisoned in Lancaster Castle for three months. Before the term had expired another indictment had been preferred against him, and Joseph Nadin was waiting in Lancaster to serve him with another warrant on his exit from prison. Wroe succeeded in evading him, and booked a seat on the Manchester coach. An accident to the coach resulted in Wroe's right arm being broken. He was again imprisoned, ruin followed ; in 1826 he failed, and was confined as a debtor in the King's Bench. He had in the meantime sold the *Observer* to Thomas John Evans. The last issue of the paper was dated June 21, 1821, and on June 30 a letter written by the editor appeared in the columns of the *Manchester Guardian*, recommending that journal to his former readers.

Some account of one of the issues of the *Observer* will be of interest to some who may never have seen a copy of the unfortunate journal. It was an eight-page publication, the size of the pages being eleven inches wide and fifteen inches long. The full title was *Manchester Observer, or Literary, Commercial, and Political Register*. A representation of the eye at the head of the front page along with the title was emblematic of the title. The price was " 7d. Ready money. 8s. per Quarter on Credit.

If paid in Advance 29s. 6d. per year." Number 12 was dated March 21, 1818. The front page is nearly filled with advertisements, several of which are of interest. The longest has reference to a lottery, and another one is a list of subscriptions towards the "Relief of the sufferers under the recent suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act." The list is headed by James Wroe, who contributed a sovereign. The total amount announced is £22. The remaining announcements have reference to sales by auction and trade advertisements. Parliamentary news fills two pages, and correspondence the greater part of two others. General news is represented by a report of proceedings against five men on a charge of administering an unlawful oath. The case was of a political character, and the Government evidence was so weak that the prisoners were acquitted. Two murder cases are reported at length, and a column is devoted to original poetry. The leading article is on the last page, and is of a political character. A few items of news, extracts from other papers, and a "lyric effusion" descriptive of a row at the house of some unnamed person complete the contents of the paper, for which sevenpence was charged.

"THE POOR MAN'S ADVOCATE."

In January, 1832, there appeared the first issue of a newspaper which had a very short career. It bore the title of *The Poor Man's Advocate*, and was issued by A. Wilkinson from an office at 74, Market Street. Wilkinson died after the appearance of the fourth number, and

the journal was taken over by John Doherty, of 37, Withy Grove. Another newspaper connected with Market Street was the *Manchester and Salford Advertiser*, the first number of which appeared in November, 1828. It was supported by the licensed victuallers, and was published in an office near to Darbyshire's shop. In later years the office was at the corner of Spring Gardens. The principal event in its career was an action for libel entered against the publishers by John Edward Taylor. The libel was contained in an article in which serious charges were made against Mr. Taylor respecting the compensation granted to him by the Improvement Commissioners. The jury found for the plaintiff, awarding him £450 damages. The editor of the paper, Mr. Whittle, afterwards severed his connection with the *Advertiser*, and along with Patrick O'Higgins established the *Tribune*, a Dublin newspaper. Another editor of the *Advertiser* was George Condy, the son of an Irish Wesleyan Minister, who had been trained for the bar. Forensically he was a failure, but turned his attention to journalism. He became a part owner and editor of the *Advertiser*, and in this way supplemented the income he received as a commissioner in bankruptcy. As a journalist he shone as a dramatic critic. He died in 1842. Many other journals have owned Market Street as their home. Amongst these may be named the *Unitarian Herald*, which was first issued from No. 74, in 1859; *Cotton: The Journal of the Cotton Trade*, published at No. 42, in January, 1877; and the *City Jackdaw*, the first number of which appeared on November

19, 1873, being issued by Robert R. Dodds, from an office at 73a, Market Street. The last-named for some time enjoyed a considerable amount of popularity, but like most journals of its class, its life was only a short one.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART XIII.

THE BANK OF MANCHESTER.

At the corner of Brown Street, where until recently the Commercial Hotel stood, were for fifteen years situated the premises of the Bank of Manchester. It was the first joint-stock bank in the town, and was opened on November 8, 1828, with a nominal capital of £2,000,000. It was strongly supported by many of the leading business men of the day, and commenced operations with an apparent assurance of success such as rarely falls to the lot of a new venture. If any of my readers remember the bank in its days of prosperity they will also remember it for the magnificence of its fittings and furniture. In days when offices and business premises were furnished in an almost severe style of simplicity, the Bank of Manchester displayed a profusion of mahogany and brass that for a time made it the talk of the town. In 1834 it followed the example of most other banks by issuing its own notes, but in 1841 the practice was discontinued. The commercial crisis of 1836-7 was a trying time for the directors, in consequence of a number of serious losses sustained, but the storm was successfully

weathered. A few years later a more serious disaster overtook the concern, and payment was stopped. Losses to the extent of £800,000 were disclosed, and the bank's liabilities were declared to be £713,082, against which were a small amount of assets.

The failure created quite a panic in Manchester commercial circles, and further losses were sustained. To add to the difficulties of the situation Edmund Burdekin, the manager disappeared. He absconded to America, and never returned to this country. It was said that many of the losses were sustained in consequence of the lenience shown by him to a number of personal friends. One of these persons involved the bank in a loss of £200,000. A gradual process of winding-up was decided upon, and the operations of the bank, considerably reduced in bulk, were conducted in the back portion of the original premises, with an entrance from Brown Street. In 1852, a new board of directors was formed, and seven years later the bank was registered under the Limited Liability Act. In 1862 new premises were taken in Pall Mall, and on February 5, 1863, the old-established London banking business of Heywood, Kennards, and Co., was taken over, the bank at the same time assuming the designation of the Consolidated Bank. In 1866 disaster again threatened the bank, but the subscription of additional capital enabled the directors to surmount their difficulties. As showing the nature of the support given to the bank, even in its darkest days, a few names may be given. These included J. C. Dyer, J. N. Heron, Alexander Henry, Matthew Curtis, J. A.

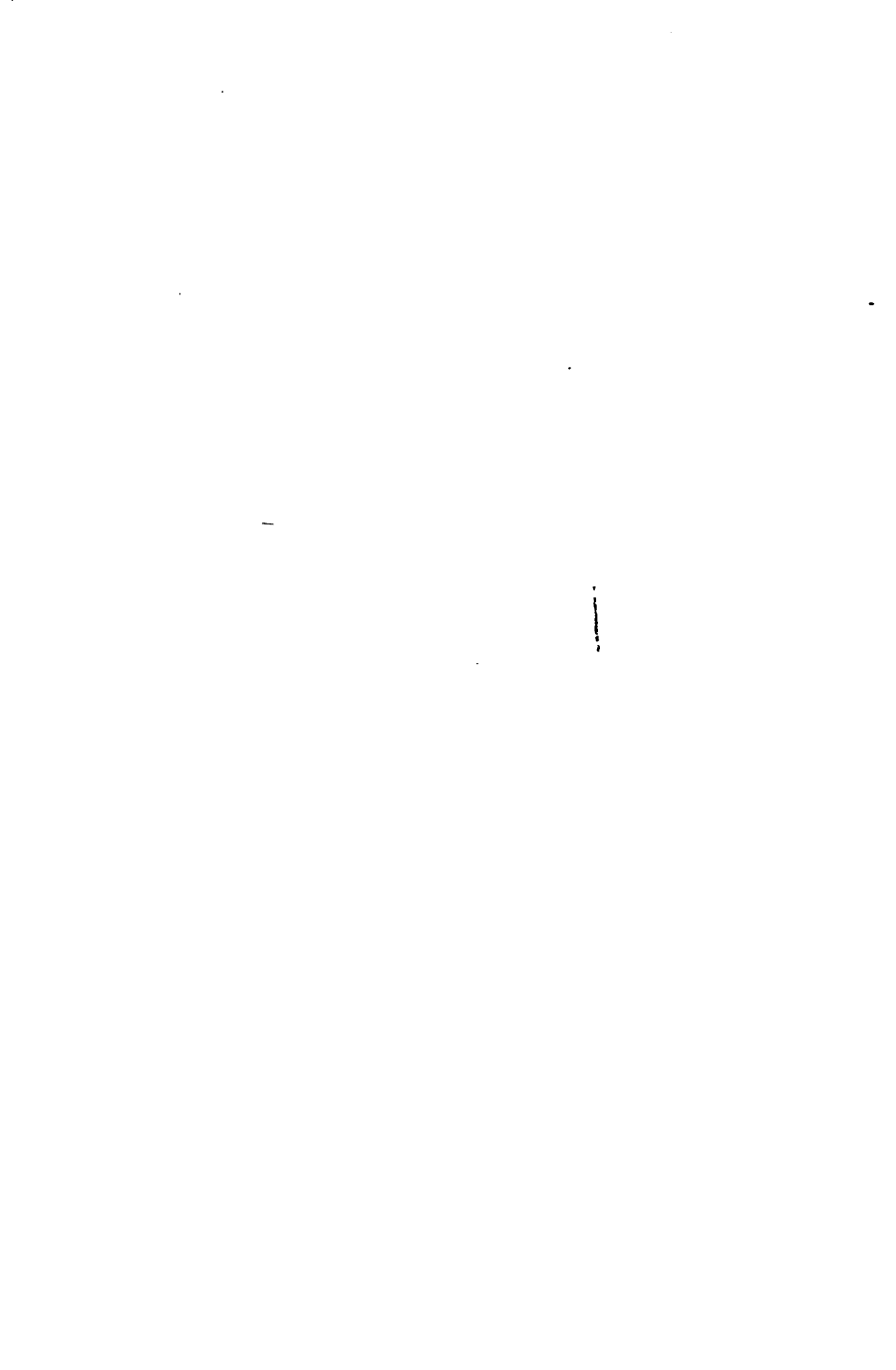
Bannerman, E. R. Langworthy, Ivie Mackie, John Pender, and James Aspinall Turner.

BROOKS'S BANK.

Amongst the interesting views of Market Street buildings that survive to enable us to realize the changes that have taken place in the appearance of the thoroughfare is one entitled Cunliffe, Brooks, and Co.'s Bank, Market Street. It bears date 1829, and represented a fine block of buildings that stood at the corner of New Brown Street. They were erected during the widening operations, and the plate is doubly interesting because it gives us an illustration of how the widening operations were carried out. The bank premises and the adjoining shops were built up to the new building line. On the other side of New Brown Street we see a single shop, number 73, known as the Swan Coach Office, projecting some distance beyond the building line, and next door, lower down, is another building, which has been set back ; the whole giving a peculiar appearance to this section of the street. The central building in the picture consists of three portions. There is a central portion set some little distance back, with railing enclosing the area thus formed, and on either side of this portion are two wings that stand close up to the street. In 1829 the shop forming the wing at the corner of New Brown Street was occupied by a firm of silk manufacturers, the second shop forming a portion of the central section was occupied by the bank, the other wing was occupied by the book-seller's shop of Thomas Forrest previously referred to,



MARKET STREET—BROOKS'S BANK.



and next door to that was the tailor's shop of M. Lowe and Co. Let us now briefly sketch the origin and early history of the great banking concern. In the earlier years of the second decade of the last century Roger Cunliffe and William Brooks carried on a small handloom manufacturing business at Blackburn. They had been associated in this way for some years, but about 1815 they commenced a small banking business. In 1820 Roger Cunliffe, jun., removed to London, and there commenced a branch bank ; and about the same time William Brooks placed his three sons in good positions in Manchester. John, to whom we have previously referred, became partner in the firm of Butterworth and Brooks, Thomas joined the concern known as Grimshaw and Brooks, and Samuel became associated with Reddish, Brooks and Co. All were engaged in the calico-printing business, and at one time all occupied warehouses in High Street. Our concern at present is with Samuel, whose firm occupied premises at number 18. In addition to the ordinary business of the firm, he opened in a room in the warehouse a branch of the Blackburn Bank.

Just before coming to Manchester he had married Miss Margaret Hall, and contrary to what a business man would do to-day, the newly-wedded pair took up their residence at Granby Hall, Granby Row. The Hall was in those days a desirable place of residence. Standing a little way from the river bank, across which open fields extended behind it in the direction of Chorlton Hall, the house was surrounded by a garden, which at

the back extended down to the river. Flowers grew in abundance, and in the orchard were some prolific fruit trees. The house still stands, but its glory has departed, and the fine half circular bay windows look out upon a wilderness of bricks and mortar. Mr. Brooks afterwards removed to 4, Lever Street, and later still to the house in Mosley Street, afterwards occupied by Richard Cobden. The little banking venture in High Street prospered, and in 1826 the premises in Market Street were secured. For over twenty years the bank's operations were conducted there, until increased accommodation became necessary. Up to that time the business of the Manchester branch of the Bank of England had been carried on at premises situated at the upper end of King Street. When their new building, lower down the street, was completed, the old premises were sold to Mr. Brooks, whose intention was to pull them down, and build on their site a more modern erection. Just as arrangements had been completed for doing this, the Market Street building was destroyed by fire, and it was necessary to take possession of the old King Street building. As a result the latter has the same appearance that it had sixty years ago, some internal alterations being the only changes made during that period. Samuel Brooks invested much of the money that he made, in land just beyond the city boundary. The investment in two cases at least must have proved to be exceedingly profitable. To-day his name is borne in two local place names, namely, Brooklands and Brooks's Bar. He died in 1864.

A COUPLE OF STORIES.

A number of stories are told about this characteristic Lancashire man, who to the last often spoke in his native dialect. Two must suffice. He and John Reid, a manager of the branch of the Bank of England, were great friends, and often endeavoured to crack jokes at each other's expense. Meeting him one day, Brooks said to Reid, who was a handsome man, "Eh, tha art a pratty lad." "Ah, my lad," replied Reid, "but thou hast a prattier pocket." On another occasion Brunel, the great engineer, whilst playing with his children, had the misfortune to swallow half a sovereign, which stuck in the gullet. It remained there for several days, during which there was considerable excitement respecting it. Some one told John Brooks of the incident, and he at once replied, "They should send for our Sam, for if anybody can get it, he can."

When Sam Brooks died the bank passed into the possession of his son, William Cunliffe Brooks, the baronet and M.P. for the Altrincham division of Cheshire of more recent days. At first he was associated with his brother-in-law, Lord Francis Cecil, the second son of the Marquis of Exeter, who afterwards retired from the concern. The fortune left by Samuel Brooks was a great one, one report stating that in real and personal estate it reached two and a half millions of money. His son inherited the bank and property, valued at a million pounds. In spite of this fact, he was for many years, like his father, most assiduous in his attendance at King Street.

THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART XIV.

THE ORIGIN OF OUR OMNIBUS AND TRAMWAY SYSTEM.

It is curious that the inception of our local system of omnibuses, the predecessors of our electric trams, originated with a man who settled here as the result of an accident. Born at Wadsworth Moor, near Heptonstall, John Greenwood served his time to a cornmillers, but having one of his hands injured by the explosion of a gun, he became a tollgate collector. In that capacity he came to Pendleton to take charge of the great tollgates which stood at the fork of the Eccles Old Road and the Bolton Road. In those days the tolls were sold annually, the purchaser providing the necessary labour and collecting the tolls from persons using the road, the tolls being levied in accordance with a uniform schedule of charges. Greenwood became a partner with Joshua Bower, of Leeds, as toll lessees, and in course of time the concern became the most important of its kind in the provinces. Whilst engaged at the tollbar Greenwood saw the necessity for some regular mode of conveyance for passengers between Pendleton and Manchester.

As a result he started on January 1, 1824, a sort of hackney coach. It was drawn by one horse, and travelled between the suburb and the town several times daily. St. Thomas's Church, Pendleton, had not then been built, and where the church tower now stands was the famous "Pendleton Pow," standing on the village green. Some persons doubted the wisdom of Greenwood's venture, and the vehicle which ran to Market Street was locally called "th' pow mail." As the experiment proved successful, Greenwood was soon compelled to use larger conveyances. These have been described by several contemporaries, and judging from what we are told, they must have been peculiar-looking machines, not over comfortable. They were square little boxes on wheels, holding eight or nine persons inside. At first they were styled "The Bees." At the front, in addition to the driver's seat, there was accommodation for three or four more passengers. The driver's position was not exactly a sinecure. In addition to managing his two horses, he had a horn which he blew at intervals in order to announce his progress. When a passenger wished to enter or leave the vehicle the driver alighted and opened the door, collecting the fares as the passengers alighted. The fares were sixpence inside and fourpence outside. Greenwood had in addition to the tollbar business taken a yard and stables behind the *Horse Shoe Inn*. At the entrances to the yard he built a small office, where his sons, John and Henry, received from the drivers the amounts alleged to have been received for fares,

One who remembers the old man describes his appearance as it was in those days. He was a very stout man, who wore yellow corduroy, knee breeches, and white shirts, always scrupulously clean. He rarely wore either hat or coat, and was usually to be seen in his office, or seated on a form outside smoking a long clay pipe. He was constantly in conflict with the drivers, whose tricks in paying over only a portion of the money received annoyed him considerably. He had a loud voice, and a fairly extensive vocabulary of expressive words, which he did not fail to use on such occasions, and he often said that if the men would let him have one wheel he could pay his way, but that they wanted all four. His son Henry died young; and John was intended for a commercial life, spending thirteen years with Thomas Truman, cotton manufacturer, whose office was in Ducie Place. In consequence of the increase in his father's business, he joined him in 1846, twenty-two years after the inauguration of the venture. Five years later the father died, leaving his son, only thirty-three years of age, in sole charge of the carrying business and the partnership in the toll contracts. How great the latter was will be realized from the fact that at one time the toll rents in which the father had been concerned amounted to £200,000 a year. The abolition of turnpikes, however, had made a great change, and the amount had fallen to £10,000 a year.

In 1852 an entirely new style of omnibus was introduced into Manchester by Mr. McEwen. It showed a

considerable advance upon anything hitherto used. It was much longer than the older vehicles, carried passengers on the roof, was made without the door that was regarded previously as indispensable, and was drawn by three horses. Greenwood's capital was insufficient to meet the demands made upon it by the introduction of the new vehicles, for by this time the number of vehicles in daily use had considerably increased, as one by one new routes had been adopted, and additional districts catered for. The requisite capital was found by Alderman Ivie Mackie, to whom Greenwood sold his business. The next step was taken in 1865, when the concern was purchased by the Manchester Carriage Company, of which Mr. Mackie was appointed chairman, with Mr. Greenwood as vice-chairman and managing director. The offices of the Company were for many years near the bottom of Market Street, the shop having been taken in Mr. Greenwood's days of ownership.

The next stage in the story is the introduction of the tramways. As far back as 1861 some such system had been proposed to the Salford Town Council, and on August 7 in that year an agreement was sanctioned for the laying down, on "Haworth's Patent Perambulating Principle," of an iron tramway for the passage of omnibuses, to be moved by horse-power from Cross Lane over Windsor Bridge, along the Crescent and Chapel Street to Albert Bridge. Another fourteen years passed before there was any further move, and

in 1875 a Board of Trade inquiry was held at the Town Hall, King Street, with regard to the objections raised to the introduction of tramways; and in June of the same year the first Act of Parliament was passed. The first line of tramway extended from the *Grove Inn*, Higher Broughton, to the *Woolpack* at Pendleton. The laying of the lines was completed on May 7. 1877, and on the 17th the opening ceremony was performed. A procession of thirteen tramcars made the journey, and included amongst the passengers were many members of the Manchester and Salford Corporations. It is beyond the scope of this chapter to give a detailed account of the more recent developments of this great undertaking, it being sufficient for our purpose to state that as soon as the Company was assured of the success of their first experiment, arrangements were made for covering the city, borough, and suburbs with a network of tramways. The next step towards making the trams more popular was the reduction in fares. For some time the introduction of the penny fares was advocated in vain; and it was only when some enterprising individuals started penny-fare omnibuses on some of the principal roads, that the Tramways Company saw their way to adopt the reform. The introduction of electricity, together with the penny fare system, has resulted in John Greenwood's one-horse vehicles being represented eighty years later by the most popular and profitable system of carrying known in our history.

Before closing this chapter reference should be made

to another system of omnibuses connected with Market Street.

When the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was opened in 1830, the Manchester terminus was the bottom of Liverpool Road. Passengers were booked much in the same way that they were under the stage coach system. The name of the passenger, the amount paid, and the destination were entered in a book, a counter-foil duly signed by the person booking the passenger being given to the traveller. A way-bill, giving a list of the passengers, was carried by the guard of the train. Armed with his slip of paper, the passenger was allowed to enter the station, but the slips were collected by the guard before the train started. The slips were only available for the particular train for which the passenger was booked, and if by any mischance the passenger was not able to perform the journey, he received back half the fare if the slip was returned not later than the following day. Very soon after the opening of the line, the Company took an office in Market Street at the corner of New Cannon Street, where passengers could be booked, and in order that they might arrive at Liverpool Road in time for the train, a series of omnibuses were run by the Company from Market Street to the station. First-class passengers were carried free, but second-class passengers were charged a small fare. Four omnibuses ran in all, and on them was painted in large characters the word "Auxilium." In 1844 the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was extended to Hunt's Bank, and the omnibuses ceased to run to Liverpool

Road. The system of booking passengers by means of consecutively numbered tickets was invented by Thomas Edmondson, a native of Lancaster, about 1839. It put an end to many irregularities that were inseparable from the earlier system.



THE HISTORY OF MARKET STREET.

PART XV.

THE BINYON FAMILY.

For more than half a century the name of Binyon was one of the best known in the town. The earliest members of the family to settle here came in the early part of the last century from Kendal, where tradition stated their grandfather married Ruth Wakefield, whose father, a rich banker, provided the capital with which Richard Arkwright began business in the cotton trade. Thomas Binyon was a cotton manufacturer, and invented a cloth made by a combination of silk and wool. His sons, Thomas and Edward, settled in Manchester as tea dealers, coffee roasters, and chocolate makers. For many years they had two shops, at 18, St. Ann's Square, and 126, Oldham Street, and to-day the business is carried on in St. Ann's Street. Another brother, Benjamin, was a partner in the firm of Binyon and Taylor, twine manufacturers, at Hollinwood. He afterwards opened a confectioner's shop next door to Jewsbury and Brown's, and later again commenced the Beehive Restaurant, under the *Palace Inn*, this being the first extensive restaurant in the town. One sister of the brothers, Hannah, carried on a tea business at

53, Piccadilly, and a second one, Deborah, had a ready-made linen warehouse at 9, Downing Street.

The best known member of the family was Alfred Binyon, cousin of those previously mentioned. He was engaged in business as a calenderer and a coal agent, but, marrying a daughter of Thomas Hoyle, he was admitted a partner in the calico printing business at Mayfield, where he resided in one of the houses at the top end of Buxton Street, recently pulled down to make room for railway extensions. He built the Borough Buildings, which for many years had a disastrous career, most of the shops being empty. After changing hands several times, the property was disposed of by means of a lottery, the tickets for which were a pound each. The Binyon family were Quakers, and were generally respected for their sterling integrity. They were members of the Mount Street Meeting.

Another well-known name associated with Market Street is that of Mendel. Emmanuel Mendel, a rope and twine manufacturer, occupied an office at No. 79, but in addition to this he ventured into hotel keeping. When the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was opened many persons thought that a great future was before the Deansgate district. Mendel held this view, and opened *Mendel's Hotel* in Bridge Street.

JEWSBURY AND BROWN—CHEMISTS.

Henry Jewsbury, a son of Thomas Jewsbury, the local representative of the West of England Insurance

Company, served his apprenticeship with J. W. Gaultier, who nearly a century ago occupied the old-fashioned chemist's shop that stood at the corner of Tib Street until the widening of that thoroughfare necessitated its demolition. The same business carried on to-day under the style of Standring and Co., is to be found at the opposite side of Market Street. Amongst Gaultier's apprentices was one named Whitlow, who became the personal friend of Jewsbury, and in course of time the pair commenced business as chemists and druggists at one of the shops in the pile of buildings then known as Egyptian Buildings. In addition to the ordinary business of druggists they commenced the making of effervescing beverages, and in Gregson's lines on "The Races, 1823," there is an interesting reference to their preparations.

To thirsty souls the name be ever dear of Jewsbury's
"celebrated ginger beer";
And let the meed of cool-tongu'd praise be paid to Whitlow's
"effervescing lemonade."

Soon afterwards the partnership was dissolved, Whitlow going to Liverpool and Jewsbury continuing the business. Owing to a spinal injury Jewsbury was unable to use his legs for many years before his death. When this misfortune overtook him he had an apprentice named William Scott Brown, whose father conducted business as a hosier in the Market Place. He took Brown into partnership and after his death that gentleman carried on the business. W. Scott Brown took an active part in public affairs and represented Collegiate

Ward in the City Council from 1865 to 1871, when the late Alderman Griffin defeated him. In 1874 Mr. Brown secured a seat in St. Luke's Ward, and he held it until he was promoted to the aldermanic bench. When, a few years ago, the chemists' and druggists' business was abandoned one of the oldest of Market Street businesses disappeared, but the name is perpetuated in the fine building at Ardwick Green, which is in remarkable contrast to the original shop in Market Street.

THE FIRST PLATE GLASS WINDOW IN MANCHESTER.

The most fashionable hatter in the town seventy years ago was William Mountcastle, who carried on business at No. 21, and a near neighbour of Mr. Mountcastle was a milliner, who called his shop Chantilly House. The duty on glass was a very heavy one, and it was so graduated as to fall unduly heavily on large panes of glass, with the result that in the new shops in the street the windows were filled with small panes of glass. A bold departure was made by the Market Street milliner, who astounded the people of the town by having a large sheet of plate glass placed in each of his two windows. The novelty proved to be a splendid advertisement, and for weeks the footway was obstructed by crowds of wondering individuals. In view of the fine sheets of glass which abound everywhere to-day, the dimensions of these wonderful pieces of glass will be of interest to many. Each of the two

sheets was two feet long and half a yard wide. They were inserted in brass frames and fixed in the centre of the windows. It is said, however, that the cost of the two was over £30.

Another neighbour of Mr. Mountcastle's was James Varley, the father of Isabella Banks, to whom reference was made when dealing with Oldham Street. A little higher up the street were three shops in which, in spite of changes in the proprietorship, the same kind of business is carried on to-day as was the case seventy years ago. The first of these is that of Casartelli's, whose business was commenced by Joshua Ronchetti, in Balloon Street, With Grove. His father, Baptist, was a weather-glass maker in High Street. When Joshua Ronchetti died he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Mr. Casartelli. Two doors from Ronchetti's was the boot shop of J. Holme, and next door again the shop of J. Darbyshire and Company. The last-named are described in the directories of seventy years ago as being tea dealers. To-day, although that branch of the business is still carried on, the shop is associated in the minds of most Manchester people of to-day as the source of certain toothsome morsels. In spite of the many changes witnessed in the street since 1836, the three shops named have remained unchanged so far as the business there conducted is concerned. Much more might be written respecting some of the firms that have in more recent years been associated with Market Street, but sufficient has been done to give some idea of the interesting story that has gradually been woven round

the street. We have seen it as a country lane, we have seen it as a narrow street, and we have seen it as an important thoroughfare in a nineteenth century English city.



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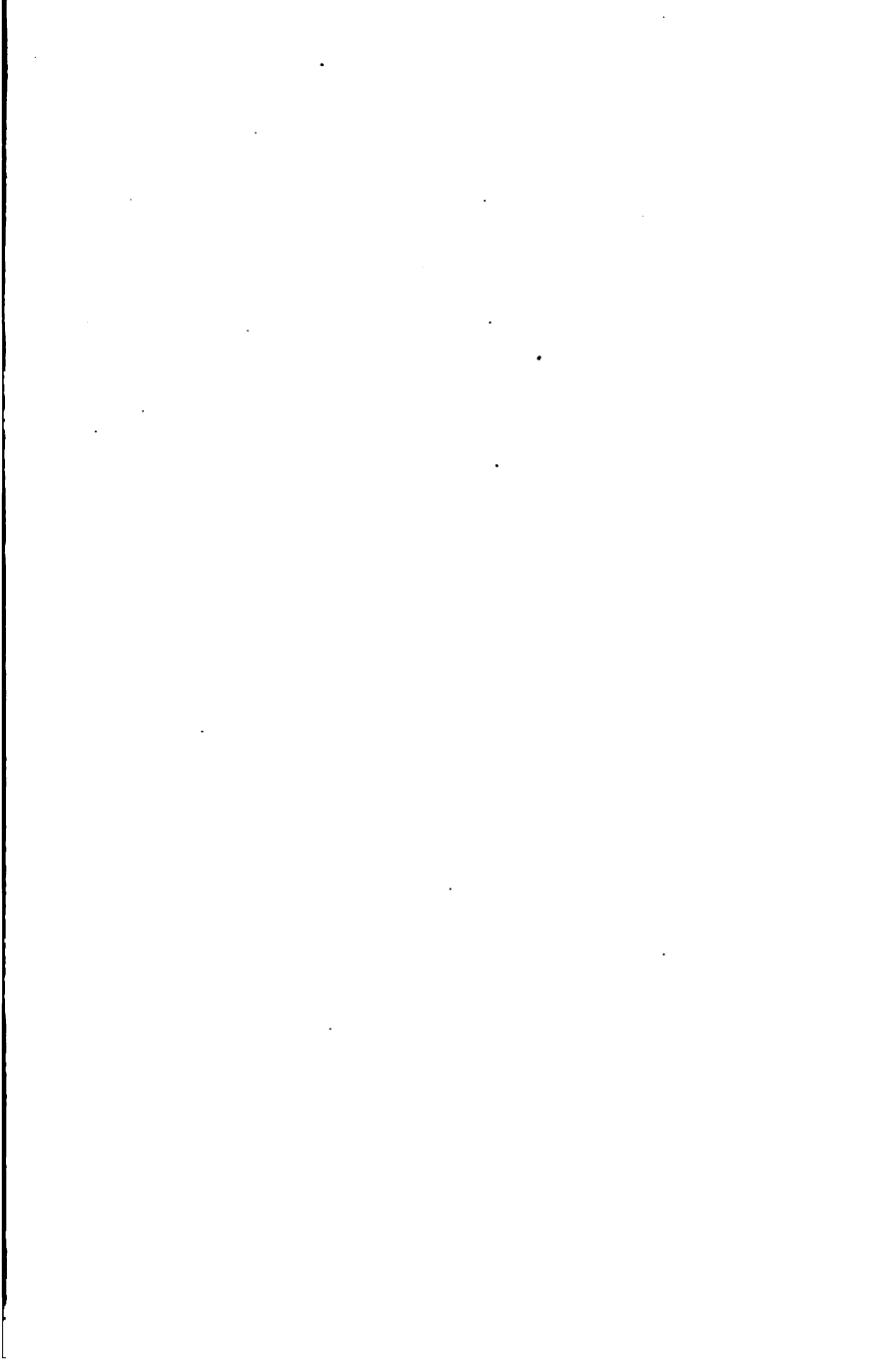
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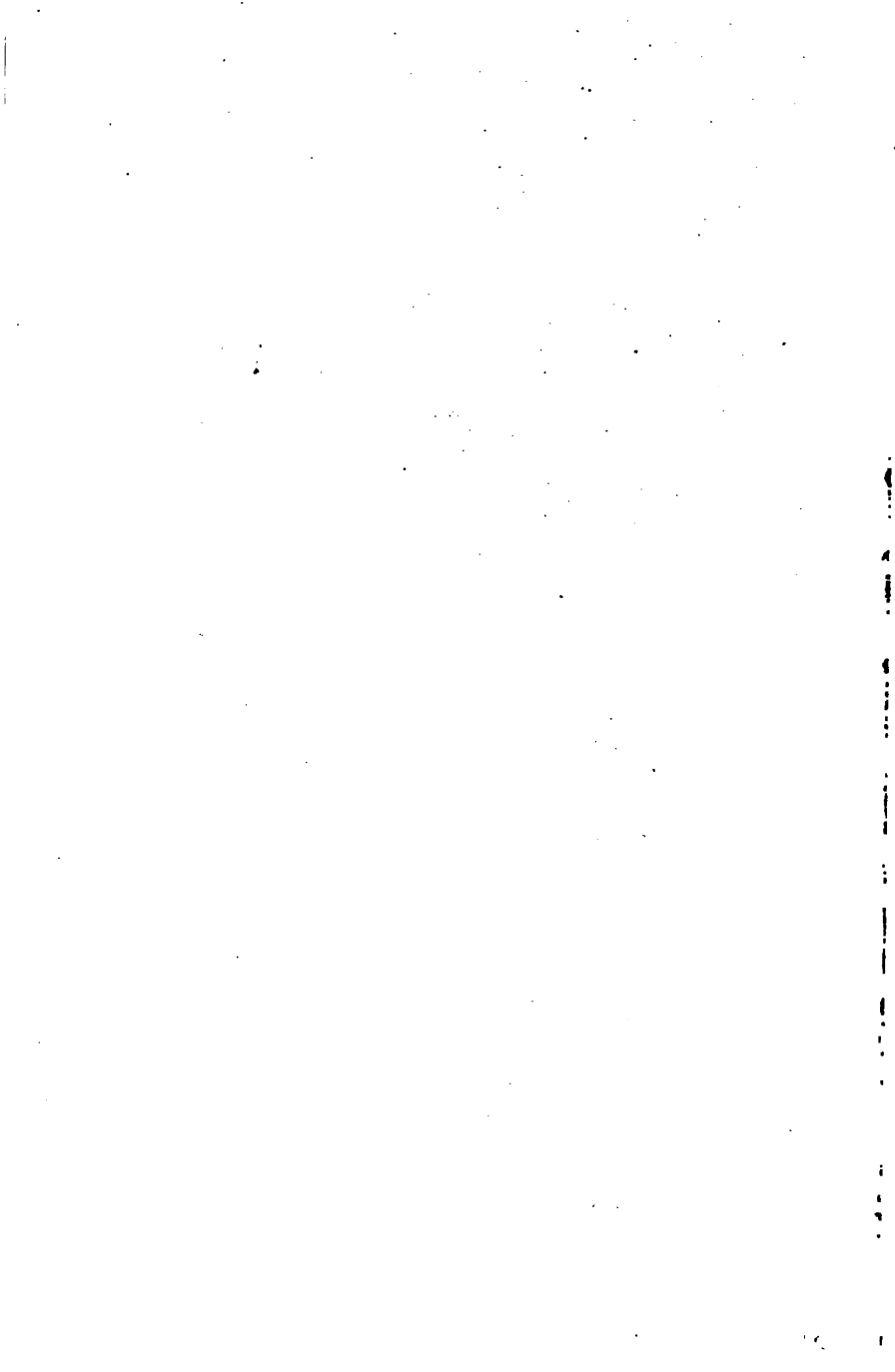
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